

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1960

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# HEALTH COMMITTEE

December 31st, \*960

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman C. R. Evans

## Aldermen:

ALFRED LOVELL  
ALFRED HASLAM

LILIAN MARY MILLER

## Councillors:

ALICE JEANETTE BURROWS (Chairman)  
GEORGE GRIMSHAW HAMMOND  
(Vice-Chairman)  
WILLIAM JOHN ALLUM  
EDITH MORRIS  
HENRY GEORGE WHEELER  
JAMES CYRIL HARRY BUTCHER  
CHARLES FREDERICK SAGE

BARBARA JOAN HUNT  
IRIS BOSIER BUTCHER  
HERBERT WILLIAM LEE  
IVY SILVIA BLAGROVE  
GEORGE FRANK ROBINSON  
JIM TOWNSEND

## Non-Members of the Council

J. H. FAIRLEY, M.B., B.CH.  
HERBERT WILLIAMS

CYRIL FRANICS WRIGHT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
INNES HAROLD PATTISON, M.B., B.S.



## STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1960

### Medical Officer of Health:

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A.

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

P. K. SYLVESTER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D(OBST)R.C.O.G., D.C.H., D.P.H.

### Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Senior School Medical Officer:

HARRY IAN LOCKETT, M.B., B.S., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

### Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers:

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ETHEL A. FISHER, M.Sc., M.B. B.Ch., B.A.O., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G.

ALBERT MARTIN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

IAN FRASER RALPH, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

### Medical Officers (Part-time) Maternity and Child Welfare:

A. J. H. HARDY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. M(OBST.)R.C.O.G.

P. W. F. McILVENNA, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

### Public Analyst:

T. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.I.C.

### Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. GREEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

### Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. SYRAD, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

### Public Health Inspectors:

#### Senior Inspectors:

R. W. BASHFORD (Sampling)  
D. V. C. COOPER (Meat)  
A. D. E. HARDING (Housing)  
E. CARSON (Smoke Abatement)  
M. CARTER (Meat)  
J. HANDBY (Meat)

#### District Public Health Inspectors:

H. MORTIMORE  
S. J. A. HALL  
R. C. GOSLING  
R. KAYE (Commenced March 1st, 1960)  
G. MILLS

### Superintendent Health Visitor:

MISS M. WEBBER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

### Group Advisor:

\*Miss J. N. MARSH (Commenced April 1st, 1960)

### Health Visitors:

\*Miss H. A. MORTIMER  
\*Miss M. J. M. WILLIAMSON  
\*Miss J. SMITH  
\*Miss S. G. HANSFORD  
\*Miss B. H. WHITE  
\*Miss E. P. E. FEW

\*Mrs. K. DULBOROUGH (Part-time)  
\*Mrs. A. ALLISON  
Mrs. KINGSLEY (Part-time)  
\*Miss M. E. GRANT  
\*Miss B. HEATHCOTE  
\*Miss F. L. GATES

\*Combined Health Visitor and School Nurse

### Tuberculosis Visitor:

Mrs. L. E. MEDWAY

### Tuberculosis Welfare Officer:

Miss B. I. HARTLEY

### Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives:

Miss F. L. MEACHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M.

### Domiciliary Midwives:

Miss E. J. ODELL  
Miss F. HOLLAND  
Miss B. LOYE

Mrs. R. M. TEAL  
Mrs. Y. M. TROTTIER  
Miss T. SMITH

Miss V. GARRIGAN  
Miss M. HALL  
Miss M. FOX

**Premature Baby Nurse:**

Miss A. FARAGHER

**Family Welfare Officers:**

Mrs. C. A. S. HALL (Part-time)

Miss D. A. MATTHEWS (Commenced 1.9.60)

**Mental Welfare Officers:**

C. E. HOUSE

Miss J. M. ROBB

Mrs. A. J. TREGILLUS

**Assistant Mental Welfare Officers:**

W. C. LACY

V. A. LANDOR

**Chief Clerk:**

C. I. AUST

**Domestic Help Service:**

Supervisor:

Mrs. H. A. FINCH

**Assistant Supervisors:**

Miss M. CHURCHILL

Mrs. L. R. RUSSELL (part-time)

Mrs. E. G. DAVIES (part-time)

**Occupation Centres:**

Miss E. M. BARKAS (Supervisor)

**Superintendent Home Nursing Service:**

Miss A. M. EDWARDS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Q.N.

**Day Nursery:***Holybrook House:* Mrs. M. MORRIS (Matron)**Blind Welfare Officer:**

Miss M. L. LOWE

**Home Teachers for the Blind:**

Miss A. E. SMITH

Mrs. M. E. HODGE

**Welfare Officer "Other Classes" of Handicapped Persons:**

Mrs. J. D. SNOW

Mrs. E. GEORGE (part-time)

**Occupational Therapist:**

Miss D. J. TURNER

**Home Work Organiser:**

Mrs. C. BIDDLE (part-time) (commenced September 26th, 1960)

**Administrative Assistant for the Purposes of the National Assistance Act, 1948:**

D. H. COMERFORD

**OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES:****"Woodlands"**

G. HOGG (Superintendent)

Mrs. H. M. HOGG (Matron)

**"Wychcotes" and "Warren House"**

Mrs. E. J. ABLETT (Superintendent)

**"Parkhurst"**

Mrs. F. B. McADAM (Superintendent)

**"Southern Hill"**

Miss A. T. KEEGAN (Superintendent)

**"Arthur Clark"**

Miss B. F. HAYSMAN (Superintendent) (commenced November 1st, 1960)

**"Dysons Wood"**

Mrs. R. H. DAVIES (Superintendent) (commenced November 1st, 1960)

**"Alice Jenkins"**

Mrs. G. R. MEREDITH (Superintendent)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT,  
BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE,  
173/4 FRIAR STREET,  
READING

June, 1961

"The Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, make it quite clear that this annual intimation on the state of the public health in each local authority area is a personal contribution of the medical officer of health in which it is for him to comment on any matter relating to the health of the community which he serves . . . .

The necessity and usefulness of these reports should not be underestimated, nor must they be regarded as merely an inescapable statutory enforcement".

(Extract from Report of the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, 1959, pp. 146-7).

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee:**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1960. Detailed comment on the various aspects of the department's work will be found in the body of the report and in this introduction I wish to deal very briefly with certain matters of special interest.

The year has been a busy one although not without disappointments and difficulties. The shortage of professional staff continues and inclines to get worse. This is particularly serious so far as district nurses and midwives are concerned. It will be seen from the vital statistics that the number of births is rising steadily and our birth rate is higher than the average for England and Wales. Nearly 50% of the births take place in the patient's own home and this is placing a very great strain on the midwives who have worked extremely hard and often at great personal sacrifice. A recent publication by P.E.P. on Family Needs and Social Services revealed that in a recent survey the National Health Service was the Service which was outstanding as having been a real help to the persons concerned and was far ahead of other services such as Education, Family Allowances, National Insurance, Housing and National Assistance. It is a sad commentary on our assessment of priorities when those who attend to our basic problems such as pain, birth, and death, are paid such poor salaries and are expected to work such long hours for them.

One of the greatest changes which took place during the year was the implementation of the Mental Health Act on November 1st, 1960. Comments on this will be found in the body of the Report. Fortunately we had taken anticipatory action in respect of many of our duties and, therefore, the transition was made easier. We already had a junior and a senior training centre; we had increased the number of Mental Welfare Officers, and had established good liaison with the local mental hospitals. No progress has been made in the provision of hostels and my personal feeling is that the case against hostels has been understated in many quarters. Obviously it will be a long time before one can express any definite opinion about the degree to which the new legislation has affected the care of mentally disordered persons, but I report without comment that in Reading the number of patients who were admitted to mental hospital under compulsion between the period November 1st, 1960 and May 31st, 1961, was practically double that for those who were admitted under compulsion in the corresponding period under the old legislation. I believe that we are not alone in this.

I feel there is much to be done in reorientating our psychiatric services; not only are the hospitals and local authorities short of trained staff, but hospital premises, especially out-patients, are very poor in Reading. In my Annual Report as School



Medical Officer I have some comments to make on the place of the Child Guidance Clinic in the Mental Health Services of the community. No steps have been taken to arrange that members of the Child Guidance Clinic should participate in the work of the Infant Welfare Clinics.

Health Education has always been one of the main duties of a Health Department albeit much of it is done indirectly. Comments on various schemes will be found in this Report and in my Report as Principal School Medical Officer. It is interesting to note that a review of the whole subject of Health Education is being undertaken by the Central Health Services Council when, it is hoped, that an objective assessment may be made of the various techniques employed, and also of the success which Health Education has had in various directions. One of the most difficult and controversial topics in Health Education at the moment is the relationship between excessive cigarette smoking and lung cancer. It is probably safe to assume that the public are well aware of this relationship but, so far, this knowledge seems to have had no influence upon their smoking habits, as judged by the sale of cigarettes. We arranged to distribute leaflets to school children at the school leaver examination; it is difficult to judge whether these have any permanent effect.

References will be found in the Report regarding the continuing problem of providing adequate care for the aged. Much has been accomplished in this respect, but, unfortunately, we are still short of adequate and appropriate residential accommodation. There is no doubt that the purpose built home has many advantages over the adapted house which we have had to use earlier on. Indeed, I think the time may well have come when we shall have to consider closing some of the adapted homes because of the absence of ground floor accommodation. Reference will be found in the Report to the development of the chiropody services for elderly people, which is provided in part by voluntary agencies and in part by the Local Authority.

I am pleased to be able to report the continued good relations which exist between hospital staffs, general practitioners, and the Local Health Authority. The local Health Authority, through its Home Help, Home Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery, Health Visiting, and the Ambulance Services, plays a considerable part in facilitating care of patients at home, but there are limits to the degree to which this is possible, or even desirable. The local Authority is just as short of nursing staff as are the hospitals and I fear that on occasions too much attention is paid to the early discharge of patients and too little to the reactions of the patient's family. It would be less than fair if I did not mention the fact that I receive many reports from staff that patients are discharged from hospital who really require more in the way of services and attention than can reasonably be expected from the Local Authority's domiciliary services. This is one facet of the general picture of shortage of hospital accommodation in Reading and district with its rapidly increasing population. One hopes that when the new hospital is completed many of these difficulties will be overcome. During the year I tried to persuade the Trustees of the Queen Victoria Institute to conduct a survey, by a neutral body, of the after-history of patients who had been discharged from hospital, especially the elderly people. Unfortunately, in my opinion, the Trustees did not accept my suggestion.

Our work on the environmental side has also demanded considerable attention. Housing remains a very great problem in Reading and members will be aware of the difficulties which are arising from the acute shortage of land. To a very limited extent this can be overcome by building flats, but flats have distinct limitations where young children are concerned and are liable to create their own social problems. The new 15-storey flats have proved to be unexpectedly popular so far, but they do have the advantages of having lifts installed. To my mind it is very unfortunate that the Government will not sanction lifts in blocks of flats less than four storeys high. I hear quite a number of stories about the great difficulties encountered by families with young children who live in flats without lifts and it is to be hoped that future blocks of flats will be high enough to justify the installation of lifts.



In addition to overcrowding we have approximately 650 houses, which are considered unfit for habitation, to be dealt with during the next five years. All this is going to place a great tax on the number of dwelling units which can be provided. Another aspect of the housing problem which is arising is that of houses let in lodgings. This subject is dealt with at some length in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and legislation on the subject is promised at an early date. I have no doubt that the conditions which prevail in many houses let in lodgings are detrimental to the health of people living there and, for this reason, I hope everything will be done to prevent a recurrence of some of the conditions which I have witnessed. It will be interesting to study the proposals and standards which are to be introduced by the Government and to see how they compare with our own standards.

During the year the Thames Valley Water Board was set up. There is no doubt that the supply of adequate and clean water is a major public health responsibility and is also one of the technical services which cannot be encompassed within the narrow bounds of Local Government areas. The decision to set up a Thames Valley Water Board for Reading and the surrounding areas is in accord with developments in this field, and I am sure that there is everything to be said in favour of it if one takes the broad view. In his Annual Report for 1957 the Chief Medical Officer wrote: (p. 139) “. . . All water undertakings, therefore, should ensure that they have access to competent medical advice, at all times”.

Unfortunately, specific provision for this service was not included in the private bill which set up the Thames Valley Water Board and, to that extent, I think the Central Government can be criticised. Fortunately the Board agreed to the proposal that the Medical Officer of Health for Reading should act as its Medical Officer and it is hoped that this arrangement will become permanent.

There are many other aspects of the work of the Department which cannot be included in a brief Introduction. Therefore, I hope that members will find time to read the Report in full.

To you, Mr. Chairman, and your Committee, I tender my thanks for your very constant support during the year; and last, but by no means least, to all members of my staff for the cheerful way in which they have undertaken the many additional burdens which have been placed on them as a result either of new duties or shortage of Staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES,

*Medical Officer of Health*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	1960	1959
Area (acres) . . . . .	9,106	9,106
Population (estimated June, 1960) . . . . .	118,110	118,200
Area Comparability Factor:—		
Births . . . . .	1.01	1.01
Deaths . . . . .	0.95	0.94
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book at 31.3.61 . . . . .	35,258	34,675
Rateable Value . . . . .	£2,168,643	£1,908,949
Product of a Penny Rate (3.3.60) . . . . .	£8,542	£7,726
Total cost of Services administered by the Health Com- mittee and the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee (Medical Services only) for the year ended March 31st, 1961:—		
Expenditure less income (other than Govern- ment Grants) . . . . .	£348,115	£315,869

*Live Births	Total	Males	Females	<i>Birth Rate per 1,000 pop. (not adjusted)</i>	
Total . . .	2064 (1981)	1095 (1077)	969 (904)	17.48	(16.76)
Legitimate . . .	1926 (1862)	1034 (1007)	892 (855)	16.31	(15.75)
Illegitimate . . .	138 (119)	61 (70)	77 (49)	1.17	(1.01)
*Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				. . .	6.69 (6.01)
*Stillbirths . . . . .				. . .	36 (41)
Number of domiciliary stillbirths . . . . .				. . .	6 (6)
*Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ( <i>not adjusted</i> ):—					17.14 (20.28)
*Total live and stillbirths . . . . .					2,100 (2,022)
* Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year):—					
Total . . . . .					42 (38)
Legitimate . . . . .					38 (37)
Illegitimate . . . . .					4 (1)
*Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ( <i>not adjusted</i> ):—					
Total . . . . .					20.35 (19.18)
Legitimate . . . . .					19.73 (19.87)
Illegitimate . . . . .					28.99 (8.40)
*Deaths of infants under four weeks . . . . .					29 (25)
*Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) . . . . .					
					14.05 (12.62)
*Deaths of infants under one week . . . . .					26 (22)
*Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) . . . . .					
					12.60 (11.11)



*Peri-natal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	29.52	(31.16)
*Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths . . . . .	1	(—)
From sepsis . . . . .	—	(—)
From other causes . . . . .	1	(—)
*Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	0.48	(—)
*Deaths—Net . . . . .	1,306	(1,400)
*Death Rate per 1,000 population ( <i>not adjusted</i> ) . .	11.06	(11.84)
*Deaths from Cancer . . . . .	269	(263)
Heart disease, all forms (other than coronary disease) and diseases of the circulatory system . . . . .	284	(289)
Coronary heart disease . . . . .	231	(220)
Vascular lesions of the nervous system . . . . .	207	(210)
*Tuberculosis deaths:—		
All forms . . . . .	7	(8)
Pulmonary . . . . .	7	(7)
Non-Pulmonary . . . . .	—	(1)
*Tuberculosis death rate 1,000 population:—		
All forms . . . . .	0.06	(0.07)
Pulmonary . . . . .	0.06	(0.07)
Non-Pulmonary . . . . .	—	(0.01)
Number of marriages . . . . .	1,088	(1,020)

\* Registrar-General's Returns  
All figures in brackets refer to (1959)

### Comparison of Vital Statistics for Reading with those for other Areas

	Reading (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)	England and Wales
<b>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—</b>		
Births:—		
Live births . . . . .	17.65	17.10
Stillbirths per 1,000 total births . . . . .	17.31	19.70
Deaths:—		
All causes . . . . .	10.51	11.50
<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—</b>		
Deaths:—		
All causes under 1 year of age . . . . .	19.33	21.70

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1960

MONTH	Rainfall and Temperature as Recorded at Forbury Gardens					Sunshine Hours as Recorded at Reading University		
	Rainfall in inches	Temperature				Monthly Aggregate of Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean expressed as a percentage of Possible Sunshine
		Maximum	Minimum	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum	*Mean Humidity		
January ...	2.58	54	21	44.26	32.61	94.26	1.32	16
February ...	2.02	62	21	46.48	32.38	96.21	2.82	28
March ...	1.33	61	30	51.61	37.52	96.93	2.55	22
April ...	0.44	68	29	58.57	39.07	98.00	5.29	38
May ...	1.78	80	38	67.58	46.55	99.77	5.83	38
June ...	1.08	87	42	75.50	51.47	97.57	8.57	52
July ...	2.94	75	37	69.39	51.29	94.48	4.63	29
August ...	4.14	79	40	70.68	50.77	88.06	5.19	36
September ...	3.49	79	38	67.63	48.10	91.07	4.47	35
October ...	6.81	68	30	60.10	44.68	93.55	2.44	23
November ...	3.64	60	20	53.07	37.77	96.70	2.52	28
December ...	3.20	57	26	45.03	33.55	94.13	1.75	22
Year ...	33.45						3.94	32

\* As recorded at 9 a.m.

### ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE, ETC.

										Male	Female
SEX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	692	638
SOCIAL GROUP											
I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	23
II	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	113
III	a	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
	b	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	27
	c	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	43
	d	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	9
	e	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	292	235
IV	a	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	16
	b	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	67
V	a	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	12
	b	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77	54
No Occupation		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	38
INDUSTRIAL STATUS											
Employers		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	56
Managers		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Branch Managers		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Managers of Offices, etc.		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Own Account		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Operative		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	631	539
Apprentice		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Part-time		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Unpaid Family Worker		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Out of Work		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
No Occupation		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	38
Retired		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	407	47
Not Applicable		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	255	50
Housewife		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	205
Widow		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	317
Dependant Child		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	19
ELECTORAL WARD											
Abbey		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	50
Battle		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	39
Castle		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	50
Caversham		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	46
Christchurch		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	45
Katesgrove		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	55
Minster		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	53
Norcot		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	35
Park		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	86
Redlands		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	49
Thames		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	48
Tilehurst		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	46
Whitley		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	36
PLACE OF DEATH											
Own Home		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	302	279
Royal Berkshire Hospital		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83	74
Battle Hospital		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104	85
Other Chronic Sick Hospital		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139	93
Sanatorium		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Mental Hospital		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	17
Part III Accommodation		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	16
Nursing Home		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	35
Maternity Home		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	37
ADDRESS AT DEATH											
Inside Borough		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	602	567
Outside Borough		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	71



## Employment

I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information:—

The number of insured employees in the Reading area was estimated to be 62,000 in June, 1960, the latest date for which statistics are available. The main industries in which they are employed are:—

Agriculture and Horticulture

Biscuit Manufacture

Brewing and Malting

Building and Civil Engineering

Clothing Manufacture

Distributive trades

Engineering (including aircraft and metal goods manufacture, vehicle manufacture and repair)

Furniture and shop fittings

Government Service (National and Local)

Hotel and Catering

Plastic Manufacture

Printing and Publishing

Transport (road and rail)

In 1960 the employment position remained very satisfactory, the most significant features being a substantial fall in unemployment and a further increase in demands for labour. Demands for skilled men were particularly heavy in aircraft manufacture, building, engineering and railways, whilst women were required mainly for a variety of unskilled factory work, the retail distributive trades and commercial occupations.

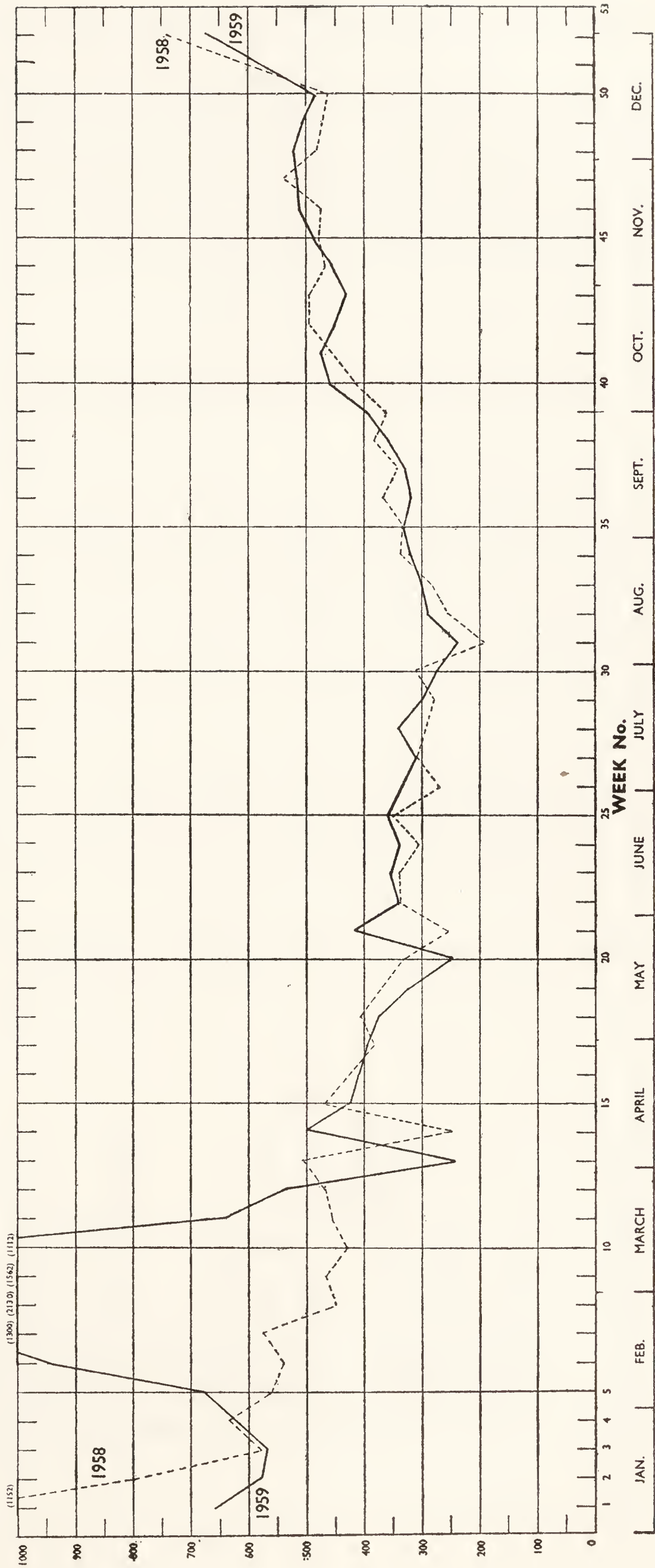
The percentage of the estimated total of the insured employees in the area who registered as unemployed was about .9% for most of the year compared with the national rate of 1.8%.

The number of persons registered as unemployed at quarterly intervals during 1960 were as follows:—

1960				<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Totals</i>
March	.	.	.	367	245	16	9	637
June	.	.	.	306	186	14	10	516
September	.	.	.	289	131	30	8	458
December	.	.	.	345	151	14	6	516

# NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS FOR SICKNESS BENEFIT PER WEEK, 1960

(Ministry of National Insurance Returns)



# CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH. (Registrar-General's Return)

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	All ages		Under 1		1-4		5-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65-74		75 and Over	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—Tuberculosis (respiratory) ..	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	—	—	—
2—Tuberculosis (other) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—Syphilitic disease ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
4—Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8—Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
10—Malignant neoplasm, Stomach ..	44	24	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	7	9	7	9	6
11— " " Lung, bronchus ..	57	53	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	29	1	18	1	5	1
12— " " Breast ..	25	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	9
13— " " Uterus ..	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	2
14—Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	127	73	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	3	26	17	17	15	27	18
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	8	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	—
16—Diabetes ..	6	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	207	84	123	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	13	11	23	29	47	80
18—Coronary disease, angina ..	231	138	93	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	44	18	42	23	47	52
19—Hypertension with heart disease ..	26	15	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	8	5	5	6
20—Other heart disease ..	199	81	118	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	8	10	16	25	55	79
21—Other circulatory disease ..	59	31	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	5	4	6	21	16
22—Influenza ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
23—Pneumonia ..	59	32	27	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	6	3	15	18
24—Bronchitis ..	44	35	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	12	1	11	3	10	4
25—Other diseases of respiratory system ..	7	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	1
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	14	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6	—	5	1
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1
28—Nephritis and nephrosis ..	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
29—Hyperplasia of prostate ..	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31—Congenital malformations ..	15	5	10	—	2	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	91	43	48	—	15	—	5	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	11	6	9	15	21
33—Motor vehicle accidents ..	17	10	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	2	2	3	1	—	1	2
34—All other accidents ..	17	7	10	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	5
35—Suicide ..	7	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	2
36—Homicide and operation of war ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS..	1306	680	626	25	17	—	2	4	—	8	4	20	17	167	113	179	144	277	329
		1306		42		2		4		12		37		280		323		606	



# NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

## SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRES

No steps have been taken to provide health centres in accordance with Section 21 of the Act. The new Infant Welfare Clinic at Emmer Green was opened by the Mayoress in May, 1960. This clinic is smaller than either the Tilehurst or the Southcote Clinic and represents the beginning of what I hope will be a new policy in the provision of clinic premises, viz., that future clinics will be smaller in size and will serve rather a smaller area than previous ones. The object is to curtail as soon as possible the travelling distance for mothers and young children.

## SECTION 22—CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

### (a) "Risk" Register

In last year's Annual Report I reported on our arrangements for ascertaining deafness in children under the age of two; these arrangements were based on the compilation of a register of babies who were considered to be "at risk" and having defective hearing. Present thinking on this matter seems to be that the same group of children are particularly liable to develop other defects as well as deafness and, therefore, arrangements have been made to keep them under careful observation during their pre-school years. For this reason I think it may be of interest to comment on our findings and also to mention ways in which our present method of compilation of the risk register may be deficient.

The information attained to compile the risk register is obtained mainly from midwifery discharge reports submitted to me by the maternity hospital, the general practitioner maternity home, and by domiciliary midwives. In practice we find that the reasons for inclusion in the list are almost entirely obstetric, as will be seen from the following figures:—

Total Reading live births, 1960	2,028
Number of children placed on Risk Register during	
1960	472
i.e. the register included 23% of all live births.	

### Monthly analysis

January	45
February	35
March	39
April	42
May	45
June	46
July	30
August	35
September	33
October	35
November	45
December	42
Total	472

<i>Analysis by sex</i>		<i>Analysis by place of birth</i>	
Males.	245	Hospital or maternity home	348
Females	227	Domiciliary	124
	<hr/> 472 <hr/>		<hr/> 472 <hr/>

### *Analysis by cause*

(This list is not exhaustive but includes some of the more interesting and important categories. It will be noted that the total number of cases given in the first column exceed the total number of children placed on the register during the year. This is because a number of children fall into more than one category of risk.)

	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>Percentage of Risk Register</i>	<i>Percentage of Live Births</i>
Family history of deafness . . .	7	—	—
Virus infection in pregnancy . . .	1	—	—
Toxaemia of pregnancy . . .	68	14%	3.4%
Haemorrhage during pregnancy . . .	33	7%	1.6%
Exchange transfusion . . .	12	—	—
Prematurity (under 5½ lb.) . . .	147	31%	7.3%
Postmaturity . . .	8	—	—
Multiple birth . . .	37	8%	1.8%
Malpresentation . . .	33	7%	1.6%
Forceps delivery . . .	75	16%	3.7%
Caesarean section . . .	44	9%	2.2%
Anoxia at birth . . .	34	7%	1.7%
Jaundice (marked or prolonged) . . .	22	—	—
Congenital malformation . . .	13	—	—

### **Summary**

The chief referral categories in the Risk Register are seen to be as follows:—

1. Prematurity . . . . . 31%
2. Forceps delivery . . . . . 16%
3. Pregnancy toxaemia . . . . . 14%
4. Caesarean section . . . . . 9%
5. Ante-partum haemorrhage; multiple birth; malpresentation; anoxia; each about . . . . . 7%

I must admit that under the present arrangements we do not seem to me to be collecting information about other groups, e.g., virus infection during pregnancy, or bad familial history. We are now looking at the subject again to see whether there are any means of remedying these defects.

On the particular topic of deafness I would report that our arrangements for referral to Dr. K. P. Murphy at the Research Audiological Unit have continued. During 1960, 472 children living within the borough were referred under these arrangements, but so far none of them have been found to be deaf. One child (K.B.), initially thought to be deaf now appears to have perfectly normal hearing. He was a child of deaf and dumb parents and I am glad to report that his response to sound developed greatly with individual attention which was provided by means of a "substitute" parent. This substitute parent was a normally hearing person who was interested in this particular type of work. To my mind, this child illustrates the great importance of giving auditory stimulation at the correct phase of a child's life if he is going to learn to speak normally. Members will recall the case of another child (J.C.), who was also the child of deaf and dumb parents and was dealt with in a similar manner. This child is now attending a nursery school and is doing quite well.



### **(b) Phenylketonuria**

Recent work has shown that the mental deficiency that results from this inherited metabolic disorder can be prevented in some cases by early diagnosis and the prompt institution of a special diet.

Several local authorities have been testing the urine of babies in the neonatal-period routinely in order to diagnose the condition as early as possible, and the recent marketing of a convenient stick test "Phenistix" facilitates such screening.

We initiated routine tests for phenylketonuria in this area in June, and, as far as possible, each child in the borough has its urine tested on two occasions. The first test is made by the domiciliary midwives, or by the hospital or nursing home midwives where appropriate, not sooner than the tenth day of life.

Not all cases show the urine abnormality as early as this and a second test is, therefore, made by the Health Visitors on the occasion of their second visit to the child's home which usually takes place about eight weeks after birth.

During the period since testing began 855 children have had their urine examined in this way and no case of phenylketonuria has been detected. The condition is a very uncommon one.

### **(c) Investigation of Infections in Early Pregnancy**

In 1959 the Public Health Laboratory Service, in collaboration with the Society of Medical Officers of Health and certain hospitals, started an enquiry into the relation of infections in early pregnancy to miscarriage, stillbirth and congenital defects. Blood specimens and histories of infection are being taken from mothers between the 12th and 16th weeks of pregnancy in over 30 centres in England and Wales. Records are being kept of the outcome of the pregnancy and of the health of the infant one year after birth, and medical officers of health and their health visitors are arranging for the babies to be brought up for examination by a doctor one year after birth.

We have been co-operating in this survey and, so far, 286 specimens of blood have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and a number of children have been examined at the age of one year by the assistant medical officers.

### **(d) Register of Handicapped Pre-School Children**

We have been keeping a card index register of all handicapped children in the area from infancy to school age on the lines suggested in the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health for the year 1957.

This register is periodically reviewed by the Senior Assistant Officer Medical of Health who has been given special responsibility for this.

An analysis of the children on the register during the year is as follows:—

	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>Incidence per 1,000 children under 5 years</i>
Congenital heart disease . . . . .	14	1.6
Mongolism . . . . .	11	1.3
Mental retardation (apart from mongolism)	10	1.2
Epilepsy . . . . .	2	0.2
Cerebral palsy . . . . .	6	0.7
Psychosis . . . . .	3	
Visual defects (severe) . . . . .	3	
Perceptive deafness . . . . .	5	
Cleft palate . . . . .	5	
Post-poliomyelitis defects . . . . .	4	
Congenital dislocation of hip . . . . .	3	
Talipes . . . . .	8	
Other congenital defects . . . . .	10	
Other acquired defects . . . . .	3	
Multiple handicaps . . . . .	2	
	—	
	89	
	—	

The total number of pre-school children on the register was, therefore, 89 which represented 1.03% of children of this age living within the borough.

#### (e) **Infantile Mortality, Stillbirths and Peri-natal Mortality Rate**

The following table gives the figures since 1948:—

	I.M.R.	S.B.R.	P.N.R.
1948	34.60	24.76	41.90
1949	26.20	21.42	36.57
1950	26.10	22.75	38.84
1951	28.95	20.19	34.91
1952	23.19	26.52	34.98
1953	19.70	22.75	32.67
1954	29.20	17.28	33.39
1955	23.60	23.00	37.48
1956	18.13	18.00	30.01
1957	20.90	25.20	38.07
1958	21.78	19.86	34.26
1959	19.18	20.28	31.16
1960	20.35	17.14	29.52

The table on page 40 gives the cause of deaths of infants during the first year of life.

#### (f) **Ante-natal Clinic**

Most of the medical ante-natal attention given to expectant mothers is given by general practitioners in their own surgeries, but the use of our clinics by domiciliary midwives continues successfully and is well appreciated. Medical sessions now appear to be confined to the extremely useful one of taking samples of blood at the request of general practitioners for examination at the Pathological Laboratory.



The midwives' sessions continued to be held during the following times:—

Star Lane	Monday afternoons
	Friday afternoons
	Saturday afternoons, ante-natal exercises
Southcote	Tuesday afternoons
Whitley	Monday afternoons (with Doctor)
	Tuesday afternoons
	Thursday afternoons
Tilehurst	Wednesday afternoons
	Friday afternoons
	Saturday afternoons, ante-natal
Emmer Green	Monday afternoons

The following table gives particulars of attendances throughout the year at medical sessions at Whitley and Star Lane Municipal Ante-Natal Clinics:—

Clinic	Number of Sessions held	Ante-natal		Post-natal
		New Patients	Re-attendances	
Star Lane ...	52	2	1	Nil
Whitley ...	48	59	318	38
Total ...	100	61	319	38

The attendances at Midwives' sessions were as follows:—

	No. of Sessions	New Patients	Re-attendances
Star Lane	48	79	415
Whitley	104	189	872
Southcote	52	101	629
Tilehurst	153	207	1,206
Total	357	576	3,122

Arrangements continue for the issue of maternity outfits of an approved pattern for all mothers who are to be confined at home.

### Blood Tests

Our practice of performing venepuncture for the purpose of carrying out blood tests for Rhesus factor and Kahn tests for general practitioners has continued.

The following table gives particulars:—

Blood tests on:—

Clinic patients at Star Lane	. . .	Nil
General Practitioner patients at Star Lane	. .	1,113
Clinic patients at Whitley	. . .	85
General Practitioner patients at Whitley	. .	127

### Post-Natal Clinics

There are no special sessions for post-natal examinations and the work is carried out in conjunction with the ante-natal sessions, as would be expected by virtue of the fact that nearly all the ante-natal work is carried out by the patient's own doctor, few women attend municipal clinics for their post-natal examinations. During the year 87 women attended municipal clinics for post-natal examinations.



## Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children

This work continues to be carried out in collaboration with the Reading & Bradfield Association for Moral Welfare and with other agencies. If necessary, cases can be dealt with by the department's own staff. We have also collaborated closely with the Children's Officer, more especially when there was any question of adoption or fostering of the child when the mother was ready to resume work. The Welfare Officer of the Reading & Bradfield Moral Welfare Association has been good enough to supply the following information:—

During 1960 the number of new applications received involving illegitimate children and their parents was 107 and 34 such cases were brought forward from 1959 as they were still receiving help.

Five hundred and seventy-nine interviews took place at 89B Broad Street, Reading, and 444 visits were paid to girls.

Dr. Barnardo's Homes and the Church of England Children's Society continued to make grants to several mothers to help them keep their children with them, and in other cases gifts of clothing were made. This help has been greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Thirty-eight girls went to Mother and Baby Homes for varying periods and have been helped by their stay in the Homes. The time spent in the Home enables the girls to think over, and talk over plans for their own future and the future of the child, and to make an unhurried decision as to what they feel will offer the child the greatest security in life.

Several girls have married during the year and have been able to provide a home for their babies.

<i>Annual Record of Cases for 1960</i>	† <i>New</i>	<i>Old</i>	<i>Total</i>
(A) Involving illegitimate children and their parents . . . . .	107	34	141

<i>*Ages of Mothers on referral</i>	<i>*Domicile of Mothers</i>
14 years and under . . . . . 1	Home in area . . . . . 76
15 " " " . . . . . 4	Home elsewhere . . . . . 31
16 " " " . . . . . 4	
17 " " " . . . . . 10	
18 " " " . . . . . 88	

<i>*Marital Status (Mother)</i>	<i>*Nationality (Mother)</i>
Single . . . . . 91	British Isles . . . . . 99
Married . . . . . 15	West Indies . . . . . 8
Widowed . . . . . —	
Divorced . . . . . 1	

<i>*Marital Status (Putative Fathers)</i>	<i>*Nationality (P.F.)</i>
Single . . . . . 75	British Isles . . . . . 83
Married . . . . . 31	West Indies . . . . . 12
Widowed . . . . . —	U.S.A. . . . . 7
Divorced . . . . . 1	Others . . . . . 6

† <i>Position of Children at end of 1960</i>	† <i>New</i>	<i>Old</i>	<i>Total</i>
Living with unmarried mother in her home or lodgings . . . . .	31	13	44
Living with mother married to P.F. . . . .	6	2	8
Living with mother in residential post . . . . .	2	—	2
Adopted or placed for adoption . . . . .	20	14	34
Mothers removed before birth of child . . . . .	6	1	7
Babies died . . . . .	2	1	3
Miscarriages and abortions . . . . .	1	—	1

# SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1911

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Living
						Sepsis	Others	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1911	87,693	1,605	21.32	164	102.2	5	3	4.9	911	12.10
1912	88,603	1,896	21.40	160	84.4	3	3	3.2	1,015	11.45
1913	89,339	1,871	20.94	150	80.2	4	4	4.3	1,035	11.58
1914	90,083	1,819	20.19	161	88.5	1	6	3.9	1,082	12.01
1915	86,299	1,792	19.89	147	82.0	3	3	3.4	1,199	13.89
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	4	—	2.2	1,230	14.46
1917	91,936	1,420	15.44	140	98.6	3	4	4.9	1,172	14.21
1918	92,320	1,582	17.14	115	72.7	3	4	4.4	1,317	15.98
1919	95,175	1,593	16.7	109	68.4	1	3	2.5	1,091	11.9
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1921	92,274	1,892	20.4	114	60.2	—	1	0.5	1,069	10.7
1922	92,990	1,729	18.5	109	63.04	—	2	1.16	1,135	12.2
1923	93,160	1,705	18.3	88	51.6	3	8	6.4	1,036	11.12
1924	93,680	1,603	17.1	86	53.6	—	5	3.1	1,006	10.7
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1926	93,290	1,624	17.6	83	50.5	4	1	3.0	1,139	12.2
1927	94,890	1,456	15.3	62	42.5	1	2	2.0	1,165	12.3
1928	97,190	1,489	15.48	80	53.6	4	6	6.7	1,147	11.9
1929	97,050	1,446	14.9	75	50.5	1	3	2.8	1,373	14.1
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	—	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1931	97,149	1,477	15.1	66	44.6	1	3	2.7	1,169	12.0
1932	97,636	1,396	14.3	77	55.2	1	5	4.29	1,253	12.8
1933	98,950	1,380	13.9	87	63.0	1	4	2.9	1,370	13.6
1934	99,250	1,414	14.25	58	41.02	3	1	2.8	1,183	11.9
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1936	100,000	1,436	14.3	73	51.0	1	2	2.1	1,275	12.8
1937	100,200	1,581	15.8	79	49.7	—	3	1.8	1,306	13.0
1938	100,400	1,582	15.7	60	39.9	1	6	4.4	1,259	12.5
1939	100,600	1,564	15.5	79	50.5	1	5	3.9	1,327	13.2
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	—	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1941	124,800	1,913	15.3	113	59.0	2	5	3.7	1,532	12.2
1942	117,800	1,833	15.0	70	38.2	1	1	1.1	1,298	11.0
1943	113,000	1,925	17.03	83	43.1	1	4	2.6	1,385	12.2
1944	111,340	2,139	19.2	87	40.7	—	4	1.8	1,311	12.0
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1946	111,340	2,226	20.0	98	44.0	—	2	0.89	1,382	12.4
1947	112,960	2,533	22.4	89	35.1	—	2	0.77	1,395	12.3
1948	114,500	2,100	17.88	71	34.6	2	2	1.9	1,311	11.45
1949	115,500	1,873	16.26	47	26.2	—	1	0.52	1,260	10.93
1950	115,770	1,761	15.21	46	26.1	—	—	—	1,344	11.61
1951	115,100	1,833	15.93	52	28.95	—	1	0.55	1,402	12.18
1952	115,800	1,772	15.30	40	23.19	—	—	—	1,285	11.09
1953	117,700	1,714	14.56	33	19.70	—	3	1.75	1,255	10.66
1954	118,300	1,678	14.18	49	29.20	—	1	0.58	1,246	10.53
1955	118,100	1,695	14.35	40	23.60	—	—	—	1,358	11.5
1956	117,900	1,765	14.97	32	18.13	—	—	—	1,348	11.43
1957	118,100	1,818	15.39	38	20.90	—	1	0.54	1,273	10.78
1958	117,900	1,974	16.74	43	21.78	—	—	—	1,255	10.64
1959	118,200	1,981	16.76	38	19.18	—	—	—	1,400	11.84
1960	118,110	2,064	17.48	42	20.35	—	1	0.48	1,306	11.06



*Cases still in hand*

In care of L.A. with or without mother	6	3	9
In voluntary Home with mother	6	—	6
Babies not yet born	27	—	27
	<u>107</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>141</u>

Number of new and old cases admitted to

Homes and Hostels	38
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\*New cases only

†New and Old cases, on which any work has been done during the year.

**Infant Welfare Clinics**

It is estimated that 88% of the children born during the year attended one or other of these clinics during 1960.

The following table gives particulars of attendances:—

**INFANT WELFARE CLINICS**

Centre	No. of Sessions	New attendances under 1 year	Total Attendances			Total attendances	Average attendances
			Under 1 year	1 & under 2	2 & under 5		
St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford Road, Reading— Monday p.m. ... ..	48	86	1,545	254	230	2,029	42
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Road, Reading— Tuesday a.m. ... ..	51	37	939	223	119	1,281	25
Tuesday p.m. ... ..	51	121	1,791	438	277	2,506	49
Thursday p.m. ... ..	52	76	1,284	293	232	1,809	35
Tilehurst Clinic. "The Laurels," School Road— Monday p.m. ... ..	48	67	1,501	364	250	2,115	44
Thursday p.m. ... ..	52	106	1,866	352	308	2,526	49
Star Lane, London Street, Rdg.— Tuesday p.m. ... ..	51	189	2,401	469	164	3,034	60
Wednesday p.m. ... ..	52	139	1,619	352	163	2,134	41
Whitley Clinic, Northumberland Avenue— Wednesday p.m. ... ..	52	136	1,688	274	163	2,125	41
Friday p.m. ... ..	52	99	1,649	264	155	2,068	39
Tynedale Free Church Hall, Shinfield— Thursday p.m. ... ..	52	136	1,862	338	144	2,344	45
West Memorial Institute, Caversham— Tuesday p.m. ... ..	51	112	1,629	486	236	2,351	46
Thursday p.m. ... ..	52	86	1,554	357	197	2,108	40
Park Institute, Wokingham Road, Reading— Monday p.m. ... ..	48	101	1,697	420	202	2,319	48
Friday p.m. ... ..	52	132	1,923	412	211	2,546	49
St. Barnabas' Hall, Emmer Green Wednesday (alt) p.m. ...	44	46	715	181	269	1,165	26
Southcote Clinic, Coronation Square— Wednesday p.m. ... ..	52	91	1,261	248	195	1,704	33
Friday p.m. ... ..	52	67	1,272	303	261	1,836	35
Totals ... ..	912	1,827	28,196	6,028	3,776	38,000	



**NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS, 1960**

Centres provided by	Number of centres provided at end of year	Number of child welfare sessions now held per month at centres in col. 2	Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Health Authority during the year and who at their first attend- ance were under 1 year of age (4)	Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in :			Total number of children who attended during the year	Number of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were :			Total attendances during the year
				1960	1959	1958-55		Under 1 year	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
L.H.A.	10	76	1,827	1,856	1,458	1,235	4,549	28,196	6,028	3,776	38,000

## Welfare Foods

The arrangements for the distribution of welfare foods continued satisfactorily throughout the year. During 1960 we distributed the following from the main depot at 22 The Forbury:-

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20 oz. tins)	193
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20 oz. tins)	9,467
Orange Juice (bottles)	35,265
Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	2,668
Vitamin Capsules (packets)	5,344

The following figures relate to the main items distributed from the clinics during the year and are in addition to the preceding:-

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20 oz. tins)	60
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Half-Cream (16 oz. packets)	810
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20 oz. tins)	5,167
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Full Cream (16 oz. packets)	29,599
Ministry of Food Orange Juice (bottles)	42,700
Proprietary brands of Fruit Juice (bottles)	5,968
Ministry of Food Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	3,760
Ministry of Food Vitamin Capsules (packets)	3,180
Proprietary brands of Vitamin Preparations (8 c.c. bottles)	3,870

## Women's Advisory Clinic

Arrangements continued as previously, viz., the clinic is administered by voluntary body which has free use of Corporation clinic premises. The following figures refer to the work done:-

The total attendances at the clinic were 2,629 of whom 1,653 were seen by the doctor. Five hundred and ten were new patients, of whom 141 were sent by their own family doctor, 30 from health visitors, 14 from the hospitals and 8 from the Marriage Guidance Council.

In last year's Report I referred to the fact that an evening session had just been started. I am pleased to report that this clinic is proving very popular, particularly with many women who are at work and also in giving advice to patients who are about to be married.





### Care of Premature Infants

The general plan for the care of premature babies continued as previously and with the same good results, and the same good co-operation with the staff of Battle Hospital.

Unfortunately the Premature Baby Nurse was off duty for a considerable period of the year owing to ill health.

The following tables give the results of our follow-up of certain of these premature babies:—

#### Born January to December, 1956

##### REPORT AT FOUR YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	5	4	4	4	1	1	1	Kernicterus of prematurity
Group B	6	6	6	5	—	—	1	
Group C	10	10	10	10	—	—	—	
Group D	44	39	39	43	5	5	1	1 Hydrocephalus

#### Born January to December, 1957

##### REPORT AT THREE YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1 Mongol
Group B	11	10	10	10	1	1	1	
Group C	19	17	17	17	2	2	—	
Group D	35	33	33	33	2	2	—	

#### Born January to December, 1958

##### REPORT AT TWO YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	9	9	8	9	—	1	—	1 Microcephalus 1 Mongol 1 Spastic
Group B	17	16	16	15	1	1	2	
Group C	24	21	21	23	3	3	1	
Group D	53	51	50	52	2	1	1	

**Born January to December, 1959**  
**REPORT AT ONE YEAR OF AGE**

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	8	6	6	7	2	2	1	
Group B	13	11	12	13	2	1	—	
Group C	22	18	18	20	4	4	2	
Group D	50	49	49	50	1	1	—	

**Born January to June 1960**  
**REPORT AT SIX MONTHS OF AGE**

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	4	4	4	4	—	—	—	
Group B	17	16	15	15	1	2	2	1 Hydrocephalus
Group C	14	14	14	14	—	—	—	
Group D	49	49	47	49	—	2	—	2 Blind

### Day Nurseries

Members will know that we have only the one day nursery in Reading at Holybrook House. This nursery was very full during the year and the following table gives details of the position as at December 31st, 1960.

Number of Approved Places		Number of Children on the Register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance for year	
0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.
20	30	22	30	16	25

**Daily Average Attendance at Holybrook House for each month of the year, 1960**  
**(Monday to Friday)**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Holybrook House ...	34	40	42	41	46	42	42	36	42	43	40	38	486



## Child Minders

Owing to the pressure on our day nursery we commenced a small scheme of daily minders for children of priority classes. This scheme, although a small one and limited by financial considerations, has proved surprisingly successful. At the end of the year there were three registered daily minders under our official scheme who were caring for six children. The main outline of the scheme is that daily minders are registered with the local authority and receive a guaranteed payment of £2 per week, to which the parent pays a contribution of 10/-. Calculated on a strict cost per head basis, this cost is, of course, less than the cost of keeping the child in a day nursery. An interesting development occurred from this scheme in that we have been able to co-operate with a secretarial agency in the town in effecting introductions for married women who wish to go out to work if they can find some reliable person to look after their children. The financial details are arranged privately between the two parties.

## Coloured Immigrants

It is estimated that there are between 400 and 600 coloured immigrants in Reading (most of whom are West Indians). Naturally they have their own problems and, after discussion with senior officers of the Migrant Division it was decided to appoint a special welfare officer for coloured immigrants. This officer herself comes from British Guiana and is a trained social worker. She commenced duties in September and works very closely with health visitors and the Children's Department. So far, the indications are that this appointment is appreciated by West Indians themselves and I hope that it will fully justify the Council's action. I hope to be able to give a fuller report next year.

## N.S.P.C.C.

I am very grateful to Mr. Curran, the Local Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, for the following remarks:-

Since I have only recently been appointed to the Reading and District Branch it is too early for me to comment on the pattern of child neglect but I look forward to some years of service in the Borough and to the co-operation of both statutory and voluntary workers in this field.

I have abstracted the following details from our records of the work done in Reading. There were 75 cases reported and investigated, these concerned the welfare of 180 children. The cases were in the categories of:-

Neglect . . . . .	36
Assault or ill-treatment . . . . .	17
Beyond control . . . . .	1
Advice sought . . . . .	21

The Society brought one case of neglect before the magistrates which resulted in a conviction.



It will be of interest that 1961 marks the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Reading and District Committee of the N.S.P.C.C. and the appointment of an Inspector. The early records make interesting reading and if proof were needed of the advances of child welfare, the three years 1911, 1912, and 1913 show that eighteen children died during enquiries, an event which is rarely recorded throughout the whole of the country these days.

## Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children

Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S., Principal Dental Officer, reports as follows:—

### Pre-School Children

The number of children in this class varies slightly from last year being 13 fewer. These children are usually suffering from toothache although a few are brought for inspection by parents, who are very keen to start their families attending the dental officer at a very young age.

One hundred and eleven cases were found to be in perfect condition, leaving a slightly higher percentage requiring treatment as compared with the previous year. A few of these children received attention at Tilehurst Clinic, which has been in use one session per week.

### Expectant and Nursing Mothers

Once again, the mothers requesting treatment are relatively few. The necessary dentures were only four in number. As in last year a "Health Education" month was held at Whitley Welfare Clinic by the Medical section and once again the Oral Hygienist was in attendance to give instruction in Oral Hygiene.

The following tables give further details of the work carried out:

TYPE OF TREATMENT GIVEN

	Pre-school	Ante-natal	Post-natal
Inspected ... ..	209	4	3
Found to require treatment ...	98	4	3
Treated ... ..	98	4	3
Attendances ... ..	130	9	13
Extractions ... ..	75	13	1
Local Anaesthetics ... ..	9	—	1
General Anaesthetics ... ..	33	3	1
Fillings ... ..	10	—	—
Clean and Polish ... ..	13	1	—
Dressings ... ..	11	2	—
Silver Nitrate ... ..	48	—	—
Full Dentures ... ..	—	—	2
Part Dentures ... ..	—	—	2
Discharged ... ..	86	3	4

### NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE

	Examined	Requiring Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	7	7	7	7
Children under five ...	209	98	98	86

### FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scalings and gum treatment (2)	Fillings (3)	Silver Nitrate Treatment (4)	Crowns or Inlays (5)	Extractions (6)	General Anaesthetics (7)	Dentures Provided		Radio-graphs (10)
							Full Upper or Lower (8)	Partial Upper or Lower (9)	
(1)									
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	1	2	—	—	14	4	2	2	2
Children under five ...	13	10	48	—	75	33	—	—	—

## SECTION 23—DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

I am sorry to say that the staffing position is getting worse. Our establishment allows us 15 domiciliary midwives—at the end of the year we had 10. Fortunately, we have been able to recruit four part-time midwives who carry out very valuable work in helping with clinics and in helping with puerperal nursings.

In previous reports I have given my views as to the reasons for this shortage of midwives; they are very badly paid for the arduous nature of their duties and the responsibility which they carry; it is a sad reflection on the community's assessment of values when they pay such poor salaries to key people such as midwives and nurses. Individual local authorities can help to a certain extent by making conditions of employment as pleasant as possible. For this reason I am pleased to report that the provision of two specially built flats for midwives/district nurses, with district room attached, was started during the year and I hope that they will be completed early in 1960. Naturally, such accommodation is relatively expensive and there has been some discussion amongst uninformed people as to the need for district rooms. District rooms are rooms where midwives can clean their dirty equipment, re-sterilise it, and prepare their bags each day. They require special fittings and it is quite unsatisfactory to do this type of work in an ordinary house. Furthermore, we have reason to believe that living in nurses' homes is becoming more and more unpopular with nurses and before long I hope it will be possible to have a number of specially built houses for district nurse/midwives situated in various parts of the town.

The birthrate remains at a very high figure and indeed is tending to increase slightly. This has placed a great strain on hospital and general practitioner maternity home accommodation and, therefore, our task of selecting cases for institution confinement on social grounds has become even more important and certainly more arduous. During the year 940 applications were investigated, of which 656 were recommended for a maternity home bed and in 284 cases it was thought that the home circumstances were sufficiently good to justify a domiciliary confinement.

The following table gives comparative figures for each year since 1938:—



Year	Total Confinements	Domiciliary Confinements	Percentage of Total
1938	1,552	1,000	64.4
1939	1,564	897	57.7
1940	1,725	931	54.0
1941	1,913	931	49.0
1942	1,833	858	46.8
1943	1,925	907	47.0
1944	2,139	925	43.2
1945	2,066	806	39.0
1946	2,226	791	35.5
1947	2,250	765	34.0
1948	2,100	645	30.7
1949	1,855	603	32.5
1950	1,809	559	30.9
1951	1,805	635	35.1
1952	1,767	614	34.7
1953	1,700	601	35.3
1954	1,678	615	36.6
1955	1,707	603	35.2
1956	1,784	699	39.2
1957	1,849	828	44.8
1958	1,970	878	44.6
1959	1,982	872	43.9
1960	2,062	965	46.8

### Stillbirths

There were 34 stillbirths reported during the year, as compared with 39 in the previous year. The stillbirth rate per thousand births during recent years has been as follows:—

1954	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17.28
1955	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	23.00
1956	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19.00
1957	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	25.20
1958	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19.86
1959	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20.28
1960	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17.14

An analysis of these 34 stillbirths revealed the following:—

25 occurred in Battle Hospital

3 occurred in Dellwood

6 occurred in Domiciliary practice, but of these one had been booked for maternity home confinement, and in the other case the patient had neglected to book any midwife or to undergo any ante-natal care at all.

The probable causes were as follows:—

#### Domiciliary

No obvious cause . . . . .	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
	4
	<hr/>

#### Battle Hospital

Prematurity . . . . .	1
No obvious cause . . . . .	10
Toxaemia and Post maturity . . . . .	1
Pre-eclampsia . . . . .	1
Intra Uterine death RH- antibodies . . . . .	2
Ante Partum Haemorrhage . . . . .	2
Placental insufficiency . . . . .	1
Cord around neck . . . . .	3
Cord presentation . . . . .	1
Cerebral haemorrhage . . . . .	2
Anencephalic . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
	25
	<hr/>

#### Dellwood

Cord around neck . . . . .	1
Spina bifida . . . . .	1
Contraction ring breech extraction . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
	3
	<hr/>

### Maternal Deaths

During the year there was one maternal death amongst Reading residents.

### Puerperal Pyrexia

The following table gives particulars of the probable cause of cases of puerperal pyrexia amongst Reading residents notified during the year:—

#### Domiciliary

Influenza . . . . .	2
Mastitis . . . . .	2
Pyelitis . . . . .	1

#### Dellwood

Tonsillitis . . . . .	1
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#### Chiltern Maternity Home

Mastitis . . . . .	1
Uterine infection . . . . .	3
Influenza . . . . .	1
Bronchitis . . . . .	1

#### Battle Hospital

No cases of puerperal pyrexia were reported from Battle Hospital but I think this is owing to failure to report cases rather than to the fact that they do not exist.

## Opthalmia neonatorum

No cases were reported during the year.

## Ante-Natal Exercises and Ante-Natal Classes

These are held at Star Lane Clinic and Tilehurst Clinic on Saturday afternoons. They continued to be extremely popular, as shown by the following figures:—

### Tilehurst

No. of classes held	.	.	.	.	.	.	47
No. of persons attending	.	.	.	.	.	.	90
No. of attendances made	.	.	.	.	.	.	800

### Star Lane

No. of classes held	.	.	.	.	.	.	30
No. of attendances	.	.	.	.	.	.	383

## Staphylococcal infection of the Newborn

Our investigation into domiciliary confinements continued in collaboration with Dr. Woods of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Altogether 141 sets of swabs were taken with the following result:—

Baby's eye mixed growth, nose S.P., finger S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Nothing of note	.	.	.	.	.	.	39
Baby's eye. S.A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	28
Baby's eye, mixed growth micrococci	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
Baby's eye. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Baby's spot. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Pupil Midwife's nose scanty haemolytic strep.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Pupil Midwife's throat numerous haemolytic strep.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's face, S.A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye. S.A., Mother's nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's eye. S.P., Mother's nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's umbilicus haemolytic strep. Eye mixed growth, Mother's nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's hand, nose and eye. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye, profuse growth of presumptive pneumococci	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's eye and spot, micrococci	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's right eye, mixed growth, left eye profuse micrococci	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye, moderate growth haemolytic strep.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye, viridans strep, umbilicus and nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye, diphtheroids, baby's hand and Mother's nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's eye, diphtheroids	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Baby's eye and spot. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's blister, profuse coliform spots. S.A. Baby's and Mother's nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye, diph. Mother's throat. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's finger. S.A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's spot, micrococci	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye and nose, pneumo. and micrococci	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Baby's spot and nose, S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye, hand and nose, also Mother's nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's eye, strep. viridans	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's spot and nose, also Mother's nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye. S.A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's skin, back and arm—mixed growth	.	.	.	.	.	.	1



Baby's eye and nose, Mother's throat. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye, S.A., nose S.P., hand S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye and nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's ear. S.A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's nose. S.P., hand S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's nose. S.P., skin S.A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye and Mother's nose. S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Total							141

S.P.=Staphylococcus Pyogenes

S.A.=Staphylococcus Albus

### Coombs Test

During the year arrangements were made whereby midwives could take samples of cord blood for Coombs Test in Rh. negative mothers who were confined at home. During the year 31 samples were taken.

### Patients discharged from Hospital

During the year we were asked to continue with the puerperal nursing of 117 mothers who were discharged from hospitals, and also to attend to 97 babies because they required continuous attention.

### Total Births which occurred in the Borough—Reading and Non-Reading Residents (based on notifications)

#### Births

Male . . .	1,806	Legitimate . . .	3,305	Live . . .	3,326
Female . . .	1,600	Illegitimate . . .	101	Still . . .	80

#### Veights

2 lb. 3 oz. or under . . . . .	19
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz. . . . .	47
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6 oz. . . . .	67
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz. . . . .	70
5 lb. —5 lb. 7 oz. . . . .	140
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz. . . . .	183
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz. . . . .	384
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz. . . . .	500
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz. . . . .	637
7 lb. 8 oz. or over . . . . .	1,359

#### Place of Birth

Domiciliary . . . . .	968
Hospital . . . . .	1,666
H.M.C. Maternity Homes . . . . .	487
Contractual . . . . .	285

#### Dellwood

Number of patients delivered by midwives . . . . .	383
Number of patients delivered by doctors . . . . .	97
Number of infants wholly breast fed . . . . .	446
Maternal Deaths . . . . .	—

### Particulars of Confinements of Reading Women Inside and Outside the Borough (based on notifications)

## Births

Male	. 1,096	Legitimate	. 2,003	Live	. . 2,028
Female	. 966	Illegitimate	. 59	Still	. . 34

## Weights

2 lb. 3 oz. or under	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
5 lb.—5 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	23
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	32
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	39
7 lb. 8 oz. or over	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	82

## Place of Birth

Born in Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,023
Outside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3

*Domiciliary*

Inside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	96
Outside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	

## Hospital

[illegible]

*H.M.C. Maternity Homes*

[illegible]

*Contractual (Arrangements with nursing homes)*

Chiltern . . . . .	10
Other . . . . .	7
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by doctor . . . . .	2
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by midwife only . . . . .	7

## PERIOD OF GESTATION

No. of Weeks	Total Borough Births	Other Area Births in the Borough	All Births in the Borough
24	—	1	1
25	2	—	2
26	1	1	2
27	7	—	7
28	4	3	7
29	5	4	9
30	3	4	7
31	5	7	12
32	12	17	29
33	10	8	18
34	13	15	28
35	9	19	28
36	27	61	88
37	52	56	108
38	126	107	233
39	216	156	372
40	1,339	722	2,061
41	121	77	198
42	85	77	162
43	15	7	22
44	7	3	10
45	2	—	2
	2,061	1,345	3,406



## CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1960

Cause	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	5
Pneumonia ... ..	3	—	1	—	4	1	2	—	—	7
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital malformations ... ..	11	—	—	1	12	3	2	—	1	18
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	—	—	1	9	—	—	—	—	9
All other accidents ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	26	—	1	2	29	6	6	1	1	43

		Number of Midwives practising in the area of the Local Super- vising Authority at the end of the year		
		Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Total
(a)	Midwives employed by the Authority ... ..	10	—	10
(b)	Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 ... ..	—	—	—
(ii)	Otherwise (including Hospi- tals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—
(c)	Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 ... ..	—	—	—
(ii)	Otherwise ... ..	—	31	31
(d)	Midwives in Private Practice (in- cluding Midwives employed in Nursing Homes) ... ..	—	9	9
	Total ...	10	40	50

# Number of Deliveries attended by Midwives in the Area during the year

	Domiciliary Cases				Totals	Cases in Institution
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked			
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (2)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (3)	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another) (4)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (5)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority ...	2	47	232	685	966	—
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations :—						
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ...	—	—	—	—	—	2,115
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes) ...	—	—	—	1	1	283
Totals ...	2	47	232	686	967	2,398



(1)	Number of Domiciliary Midwives practising in the area at end of year who were qualified to administer inhalational analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board (2)	Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of inhalational analgesics in use at end of year				Number of cases in which inhalational analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year				Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year	
		When doctor was present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was present at time of delivery of child	When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child
		Gas and air (3)	" Trilene " (4)	Gas and air (5)	" Trilene " (6)	Gas and air (7)	" Trilene " (8)	Gas and air (9)	" Trilene " (10)		
(a) Domiciliary Midwives employed directly by the Local Health Authority	10	14	13	107	168	228	537	119	263		
(b) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Section 23 by voluntary organisations as agents of Local Health Authority ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
(c) Domiciliary Midwives employed under Section 23 by hospital authorities as agents of Local Health Authority ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
(d) Domiciliary Midwives in private practice or employed by organisations not acting as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Totals ...	10	14	13	107	168	228	537	119	263		

## MEDICAL AID CALLS TO DOCTORS

1955			1960	
	No. of aid calls	% of domiciliary confinements	No. of aid calls	% of domiciliary confinements
Ruptured perineum . . . . .	60	9.9	158	16.4
Pyrexia . . . . .	23	3.8	39	4.0
Abnormal presentation . . . . .	6	1.0	23	2.4
Prolonged labour . . . . .	14	2.3	40	4.1
Ante-partum haemorrhage . . . . .	13	2.2	23	2.4
Post-partum haemorrhage . . . . .	11	1.8	32	3.3
Retained placenta . . . . .	4	< 1.0	1	< 1.0
Obstetric shock . . . . .	1	< 1.0	—	—
Abortion and miscarriage . . . . .	—	—	4	< 1.0
Phlebitis . . . . .	1	< 1.0	2	< 1.0
Premature labour . . . . .	4	< 1.0	19	2.0
Pre-eclamptic toxæmia . . . . .	1	< 1.0	3	< 1.0
Hypertension . . . . .	12	2.0	33	3.5
Breast conditions . . . . .	6	1.0	7	< 1.0
Urinary conditions . . . . .	4	< 1.0	6	< 1.0
Foetal distress . . . . .	3	< 1.0	22	2.3
Premature rupture of membranes . . . . .	—	—	5	< 1.0
Anaemia . . . . .	—	—	2	< 1.0
Other conditions . . . . .	2	< 1.0	13	1.3
Totals	165	27	432	45

It will be seen that the 1960 figures show a marked increase in the number of medical aid calls to doctors over the number in 1955. This is particularly noticeable in the cases of ruptured perineum, prolonged labour, post-partum haemorrhage, hypertension and foetal distress. I think that this can really be taken as an indication of the more cautious and thorough approach to the care of the mother during her confinement, rather than an indication of the increased incidence of abnormalities during labour.

## SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The shortage of Health Visitors continues, although two students commenced the Health Visitors course at the Royal College of Nursing in September under our assisted training scheme and they are due to join the staff in the summer of 1961.

## Appointment of Group Advisers

The Working Party which reported on the work of Health Visitors recommended the appointment of Group Advisers, i.e. experienced Health Visitors who would take charge of small groups of district Health Visitors to help them and advise them in their difficulties and particularly to supervise the early years of newly qualified Health Visitors. The Council has sanctioned the appointment of a total of four Group Advisers; Miss J. N. Marsh was the first to be appointed and she commenced her duties in April, 1960. It is hoped to make a further appointment in 1961, and others as time goes on. I am quite satisfied that such appointments are fully justified, not only from my point of view, but because they give an insight into administration to Health Visitors who want, in their time, to become Superintendents.

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows, but it must be remembered that according to the recommendations of the Ministry of Health our establishment should be 27 Health Visitors. These figures, therefore, give a good indication of the extent of our staff deficiencies:—



Superintendent Health Visitors/School Nurse	.	.	1
Group Adviser	.	.	1
Whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses	.	.	10
Part-time Health Visitors/School Nurses	.	.	1
Part-time Health Visitors	.	.	1
Whole-time School Nurses (permanent)	.	.	3
Part-time School Nurses (temporary)	.	.	3
Tuberculosis Visitors	.	.	2

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out by Health Visitors during the year:—

Primary visits to babies under 1 year of age	.	2,051
Return visits to babies under 1 year of age	.	7,572
Total visits to children aged 1–2 years	.	5,103
Total visits to children aged 2–5 years	.	11,496
Total number of children visited, First visit only	.	8,525
Total number of families visited, First visit only	.	6,406
Total first visits to expectant mothers	.	424
Total return visits to expectant mothers	.	119
Total number of visits to old people for hospital assessment	.	42
Total number of visits for hospital after-care	.	552
Total number of miscellaneous visits	.	1,304
Total number of visits to T.B. households	.	7
Total number of infant death investigations	.	33
Total number of effectual visits	.	28,703
Total number of ineffectual visits	.	4,658
Total attendances at clinics	.	1,465

### Mothercraft Classes

These have continued on similar lines to previous years. A further course was commenced at the new clinic at Emmer Green and runs in conjunction with the ante-natal clinic.

One hundred and fifty-four classes were given during the year by health visitors and midwives. Two hundred and forty-one primigravidae were domiciliary bookings—of these 204 have attended one of the courses.

### Nursery Nurses Training—Technical College, Reading

Two Health Visitors have continued to help with the syllabus, and the nursery students have attended our infant welfare clinics as previously in other years.

### City and Guilds of London—Domestic Subjects—Technical College

A section of this course has been covered as before.

### Geriatric Visiting

Liaison between hospitals, general practitioners and the health visitors has grown, especially as regards the care of the aged; it is interesting to note that the number of old people under regular supervision by the health visitors has almost doubled during the year and that the general practitioner is using the services of the Health Visitor to a far greater extent than ever before.



## SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

This important work continues to increase in importance with increasing emphasis on the domiciliary treatment of sick people. The work of the district nurse has again been predominantly with the elderly sick. In many cases they have to attend patients who live alone, often under very unsatisfactory conditions. Owing to the re-arrangement of districts the Berkshire County Council took over the work for the Parish of Earley. This has lightened our load somewhat but it was counteracted by the fact that the County Council also took over a certain number of staff who were doing this work for us.

It is interesting to note that during 1960 there appears to have been an increase in the number of patients receiving streptomycin injections, several of whom were visited after 6.30 p.m. when they returned home from work.

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Superintendent . . . . .	1
Assistant Superintendents . . . . .	1
District nurses who have completed their period of contract . . . . .	12
District nurses completing their contract of service . . . . .	—
Student nurses . . . . .	2
Male nurses completing their contract of service . . . . .	—
Non-district trained nurses:—	
Full-time . . . . .	—
Part-time . . . . .	5

The following table gives the statistical summary of the visits paid by nurses to various types of cases during the year:—

	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>
Medical . . . . .	1,267	49,602
Surgical . . . . .	187	6,837
Infectious disease . . . . .	1	52
Tuberculosis . . . . .	25	2,279
Maternal complications . . . . .	45	326
Others . . . . .	320	1,503
	<hr/> 1,845 <hr/>	<hr/> 60,599 <hr/>

The following information is also of interest:—1,085 of the patients visited were aged 65 and over at the time of their first visit and altogether they received 44,667 visits. Of this number 61 received more than 24 visits during the year and, in fact, received a total of 25,325 visits. Sixty-one of the cases were under the age of 5 at the time of the first visit during the year and they received some 353 visits.

The following table gives a comparison of home nursing work carried out since 1949, but I would emphasise the decrease which has been due to the separation of work in the Earley area and (as mentioned) the corresponding loss of staff:—

Year	Number of cases nursed	Total number of visits
1949	2,741	92,000
1950	2,761	84,029
1951	2,831	66,937
1952	3,082	74,168
1953	3,490	77,717
1954	3,294	81,089
1955	3,443	79,088
1956	2,380	79,738
1957	2,712	79,465
1958	2,440	77,836
1959	2,144	69,087
1960	1,845	60,599

## SECTION 26—Vaccination and Immunisation (excluding B.C.G.)

In this borough we have been using the “triple” antigens as a basis for our scheme of inoculation and the timing of these procedures which we have been attempting to follow during the year is as follows:—

2 months	.	.	.	.	Smallpox vaccination
3	„	.	.	.	1st triple injection against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough
4	„	.	.	.	2nd triple injection
5	„	.	.	.	3rd triple injection
6	„	.	.	.	1st poliomyelitis injection
7	„	.	.	.	2nd poliomyelitis injection
14	„	.	.	.	3rd poliomyelitis injection
17	„	.	.	.	Triple booster injection
5 years	.	.	.	.	Triple booster injection

During the year it was possible to arrange for a central sterile supply of syringes and for the use of individual syringes for each injection. Further details of this are given in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer, 1960.

## Diphtheria

Number of children who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time between January 1st, 1946 and December 31st, 1960.

Age at 31/12/60 (i.e. born in the year) ...	Under 1 1960	1-4 1956-1959	5-9 1951-1955	10-14 1946-1950	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether prim- ary or booster)					
A 1956-1960 ...	582	5,539	3,647	78	9,846
B 1955 or earlier ...	—	—	2,750	7,409	10,159
C Estimated mid-year child population ...	1,940	6,960	18,500		27,400
Immunity Index	30.00	79.58	75.00		73.01

The number of children who completed the course of inoculation with Pertussis vaccines (including combined diphtheria/pertussis vaccines) during 1960 was as follows:-

Age at Date of Final Injection		
0-4 years	5-14 years	Total
1,686	80	1,766

Booster Doses for Diphtheria alone	...	...	...	...	...	164
Booster Doses—Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	675
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—
Combined Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus	...	...	...	...	...	602

### Vaccinations performed during 1960

Age at 31/12/60 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1	1 year	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	999	65	42	29	82	1,217
Number Re-vaccinated	27	3	7	13	157	207



IMMUNISATION FIGURES FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1st, to DECEMBER 31st, 1960

Clinic	Sessions	No. of children who completed a course of immunisation against:-	Diphtheria	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Tetanus	Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Poliomyelitis	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against:-	Diphtheria	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Tetanus	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Poliomyelitis	Totals
Grovelands . . . . .	15		1	2	1	1	110	137		18	59	1	1	63	225	615
Whitley . . . . .	28		12	—	12	3	167	245		15	96	—	—	132	394	1064
Tilehurst . . . . .	26		1	—	1	12	149	240		19	127	—	1	80	343	974
Caversham (Queen's Rd.) . . . . .	13		1	—	1	3	55	80		44	51	—	—	34	165	438
School (Queen's Rd.) . . . . .	28		19	—	2	2	203	280		20	108	—	1	129	423	1189
Southcote . . . . .	27		6	—	3	3	95	155		6	64	—	—	62	198	591
Emmer Green . . . . .	15		—	—	—	—	31	41		8	26	—	—	15	29	151
Adult clinics and at business premises . . . . .	—		—	—	—	—	—	2085		—	—	—	—	—	2052	4137
Carried out by Private Practitioners . . . . .	—		69	—	35	35	846	3640		34	144	—	—	87	5030	9885
Totals . . . . .	—		109	2	58	58	1656	6903		164	675	—	2	602	8859	19044

# Vaccination Figures for Period January 1st to December 31st, 1960

## Vaccination against Smallpox

Clinic	Sessions	0-6 months	7-12 months	over 12 months	Totals
Grovelands .	15	39	13	4	56 (2)
Whitley .	28	64	12	18	94 (8)
Tilehurst .	26	62	12	12	86 (10)
Caversham . Queen's Rd.	13	35	10	15	60 (4)
School Queen's Rd.	28	80	18	67	165 (61)
Southcote .	27	50	14	4	68 (12)
Emmer Green	15	27	7	2	36 (1)
Carried out by Private Prac- titioners .	—	454	129	276	859 (109)
Totals . .	—	811	215	398	1,424 (207)

Figures in parenthesis denote re-vaccination

## Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The following table gives particulars of the persons who *completed* a course of immunisation during the year:—

		<i>Total vaccination since inception</i>
Children born in the years 1943 to 1960 . . .	2,101	24,970
Young Persons born in the years 1933 to 1942 . .	1,083	8,501
Persons born before 1933 and under 40 years . .	3,646	3,646
Others . . . . .	73	73
General Practitioners and their families . . .	Nil	121
Ambulance staff and their families . . . . .	Nil	31
Hospital staff, medical students and their families .	Nil	289
Expectant mothers . . . . .	Nil	1,449
	<hr/> 6,903	<hr/> 39,080
Number of persons who have received third injections .	8,859	30,696
Total . . . . .	<hr/> *15,762	<hr/>

\*Of the above, 8,670 were done by G.P.'s.

## SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out since 1949 for Borough and non-Borough duties:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949 . . .	8,797	10,098	88,884
1950 . . .	10,702	12,165	106,256
1951 . . .	12,176	14,097	119,839
1952 . . .	15,649	18,096	139,596
1953 . . .	19,357	23,482	155,528
1954 . . .	21,361	24,453	159,361
1955 . . .	22,224	26,207	162,369
1956 . . .	23,681	27,296	152,241
1957 . . .	24,141	27,758	155,283
1958 . . .	25,526	31,883	164,949
1959 . . .	32,121	35,485	167,292
1960 . . .	34,905	37,939	174,483

A summary of work carried out during 1960 is tabulated below:—

	CALLS		PATIENTS		MILES	
	①	②	①	②	①	②
Emergency (999 Calls) . . .	1,825	1,469	1,824	1,398	9,233	5,674
Urgent and Non-urgent Calls . . .	33,037	27,971	36,046	30,725	163,332	106,052
Flying Squad Duties . . . . .	123	—	69	—	1,918	—
Stretcher Cases . . . . .	14,105	10,295	15,113	11,037	98,368	54,280
Sitting/Walking Cases . . . . .	20,880	19,145	22,826	21,086	76,115	57,446

① *Total All Areas*

② *Non-Rechargeable Cases*

In addition to the above duties, all calls for the conveyance of patients by ambulance or car from places within the “999” Telephone area (approximately 112 square miles) to places inside or outside this area, are received and arranged from the Ambulance Service. Several thousand duties for the conveyance of Sitting/Walking patients residing within the County area of the “999” Telephone Area were passed to the Hospital Car Service to be carried out on our behalf. These duties are rechargeable directly to the County Authority and are not recorded in the above tabulations.

### Ambulance Fleet and Personnel

The fleet of vehicles available for all purposes at December 31st, 1960, consisted of 10 Dual-Purpose Ambulances. To meet the heavy increase in the demands on the Ambulance Service and to ensure ambulances are available for essential maintenance, consideration has been given to increase the fleet to 13 vehicles in the forthcoming year.

There are 23 Ambulance Driver/Attendants to cover the twenty-four hour service provided, it has been proposed to increase this number by 4 to meet the increased work, the reduction of the working week from 44 hours to 42 hours in January, 1961, and to provide additional cover of one man during the night.



## Dunlop Pneuride Pneumatic Suspension

Four ambulances have now been fitted with the Pneuride Air Suspension on the rear axle to improve the ride for patients in transit. The improvement has been of an exceptionally high standard and it is anticipated that all new vehicles will be fitted with air suspension as opposed to the conventional leaf springing.

## Increased Demands

The work of the Ambulance Service continues to increase year by year; it was reported to you last year that the Stretcher Patients alone had increased by 965, this year the increase in this type of patient has increased by 2,001 giving a total of 2,966 over the past two years. To combat this heavy increase more use has been made of the Hospital Car Service whenever possible, despite this the Ambulance Service carried an additional 453 sitting/walking patients compared with 1959. A considerable number of sitting/walking patients require the assistance of two men.

### Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

<u>PATIENTS</u>			<u>MILEAGE</u>			<u>MILES PTR PATIENT</u>		
1958	1959	1960	1958	1959	1960	1958	1959	1960
AMBULANCE SERVICE								
*31,883	35,485	37,939	*164,949	167,292	174,483	5.17	4.71	4.60
HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE								
10,394	6,572	7,120	67,842	57,725	65,663	6.53	8.78	9.22
<u>42,277</u>	<u>42,057</u>	<u>45,059</u>	<u>232,791</u>	<u>225,017</u>	<u>240,146</u>	<u>5.51</u>	<u>5.35</u>	<u>5.33</u>

\*Including 3,846 Avenue School Children, 753 miles

## Radio Control

This method of communication with all ambulances in service has enabled the increases in demands to be dealt with, there have, however, occurred many periods when the necessary emergency cover required in the Ambulance Service has not been available.

## General

Once again I wish to bring to your notice the excellent service provided by the British Railways Staff in reserving compartments for stretcher and sitting/walking patients and their close liaison with the Ambulance Service in all matters relating to the conveyance of patients by Ambulance/Train/Ambulance. In this respect, 166 patients were carried on long distance journeys by rail during the year, thus giving the Ambulance Service greater availability of vehicles to deal with local duties.

The highest standard of co-operation exists between the Borough, Berkshire and Oxfordshire Police Forces, the Berkshire and Reading Fire Brigade and the Ambulance Service. The three services have worked together at many incidents during the past year.

Both the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade have assisted in providing escorts from time to time, a service which is very much appreciated.

## SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

### A. Tuberculosis (see also Section *re* Infectious Disease)

Arrangements for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients continued on lines similar to previous years, viz. a great deal of work is done directly by the Council in providing extra milk, nursing apparatus, convalescent holidays, etc. This is supplemented by the Reading Tuberculosis Care Association.

Last year I commented on the decline in the number of tuberculous cases and indicated a wish to widen the activities of the Association. At the Annual Meeting in 1960 an opportunity was taken to enlarge the title and scope of its work. The Association is now known as The Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest.

#### (a) The Report of the Tuberculosis Welfare Officer

The work of the department during 1960 has followed the trend of the previous year. There has again been a slight decrease in the number of tuberculosis patients seen by the Welfare Officer, due to the decline in notifications. Patients suffering from non-tuberculous diseases, in particular lung cancer are gradually increasing in number. The relatives of these patients often require considerable help during the later stages of the illness and it may be necessary to visit the home frequently at this time.

The facilities provided by the Public Health Department during the year were as follows:—

Recuperative holidays	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Free milk	.	.	.	.	.	.	73

Instead of the usual gift of groceries at Christmas, it was decided to give food vouchers valued at £1 to 85 needy patients. These were very much appreciated as patients could choose their own Christmas foods. Two-thirds was paid for by the Public Health Department, the rest by the Reading Care Association.

#### (b) Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest

The Secretary reports as follows:—

At the Annual General Meeting held in June, the Association decided to enlarge the scope of its work to cover all diseases of the chest. This was embodied in its new title "Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest" where the emphasis is still on tuberculosis but patients with other chest illnesses are now eligible for help from Association funds. It is anticipated that the latter group will gradually increase as the incidence of tuberculosis drops.

Grants during the past year have been made for such things as; kit of tools for a young man to obtain a job as a carpenter, payment of fees for a young woman to start part-time classes to learn shorthand and typing, extra milk for a child suffering from bronchiectasis who is frequently ill with acute chest infections, etc. Below is a summary of the individual grants made:

Holidays for patients and relatives	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Radios (repairs, batteries and licences)	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Bedding	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Fuel	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Groceries	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Occupational therapy material	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Fares for visiting patients in hospital	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	7



Under the Garden Scheme, 13 patients had their gardens dug and planted by a gardener provided by the Association. The seeds were again very kindly given by Messrs. Sutton & Son.

The Fuel Scheme provided 66 patients with 4 cwt. of coal in October and a further 4 cwt. was given to 30 patients in February.

Toys were again given at Christmas to the children of patients on a low income.

The St. John Ambulance and British Red Cross continued to issue books to home-bound tuberculous patients and 824 were issued in 1960.

### (c) Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Sale

I am indebted to Mr. C. E. House, Seal Sale Organiser, for the following information:—

Despite competition of other organisations and the infiltration into Reading of the National Chest and Heart Association's emblems, it is pleasing to record that the public response to this Seal Sale shows no diminution. At January 31st, 1961, the amount collected was £637 6s. 4d. which is only 5/6 less than at the same date in the previous year.

The Committee are grateful to His Worship the Mayor of Reading (Alderman C. R. Evans, J.P.) for launching the appeal; to the Managements of Messrs. Heelas Ltd., Messrs. Wellsteeds Ltd., Messrs. H. J. Tutty Ltd., the Reading Co-operative Society Ltd., (Cheapside, London Road and Prospect Street, Caversham, branches) and Palmer Hall, for once again allowing free use of part of their premises as selling centres, and to the thirty-five "friends" who acted as seal sellers at these centres.

On November 30th, 1960, the Seal Sale Committee arranged a small bring and buy sale and a variety concert given by the Reading Borough Police Male Voice Choir (by kind permission of A. Iveson, Esq., Chief Constable) which proved a success and raised a further £29 towards the Association's funds.

### (d) Occupational Therapy

Miss L. D. Saunders continued her work as Occupational Therapist for tuberculous patients and has submitted the following report:—

Visits to tuberculous patients receiving treatment at home have been made in about 25 cases for the purpose of providing occupational therapy.

About half of these have needed frequent visits, as their period of inactivity is likely to continue indefinitely and they are therefore specially in need of the occupational interest.

The completed efforts are very satisfactory and patients often find their own outlet for their productions.

Over 100 of these goods, however, have been sent to the "Helping Hand" shop during the year, of which over two-thirds were sold very quickly, thus enabling a few patients (helped by the Reading Tuberculosis Care Association in paying for the materials) to gain a little profit on their sales.

This also promotes enthusiasm and the treatment continues to be most beneficial.

### (e) B.C.G. Vaccination

During the year 300 vaccinations of contacts were carried out. There were 322 in 1959. The total number of contacts vaccinated since 1950 is now 3,295.

Vaccination of school leavers has continued throughout the year in conjunction with the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. Freeze-dried vaccine has been used.

The figures for school leavers are as follows:—

Number skin tested	.	.	.	.	.	1,370
Number found negative	.	.	.	.	.	1,208
Number vaccinated	.	.	.	.	.	1,207



## **B. Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus**

The demand for nursing equipment continued to increase and, of course, is part of the general service which we have to provide for an increasing proportion of elderly people who are looked after in their own homes. During the year 1,453 articles were distributed.

## **C. Provision of Convalescent Holidays**

During the year 37 patients, including 32 adults and 5 children, were sent away for a period of convalescence under the Council's scheme. Also 4 adults were assisted with travelling expenses only.

## **D. Health Education (See also section *re* Health Visiting, report of Chief Public Health Inspector, and report of School Medical Officer, and section *re* Mental Health)**

Apart from the work mentioned in these particular sections no special campaign was carried out during the year. On the other hand, this does not mean that no health education was undertaken. Indeed, a very high proportion of the work of health visitors and midwives, doctors at infant welfare clinics and at school medical inspections, is devoted to health education. My own feeling is that health education is better received and is more effective when it is given on an individual basis and to a patient who is concerned with some particular problem. For my part I have some doubts as to the effectiveness of many of the so-called "campaigns" or "special weeks".

## **E. Work of the Family Caseworkers—Prevention of Break-up of Families (Circular 27/54)**

In March, 1960, Miss Calveley left us to undertake a different type of work. We were all very sorry when she decided to leave since during the five years she was with us she carried out most valuable work and her advice was always appropriate and readily given. It will be a long time before we will find anyone to carry out this work with the ability and enthusiasm shown by Miss Calveley.

As a result, this section had to struggle on, very much understaffed, for the rest of the year. Fortunately the position improved early in 1961.

In addition to the work done in connection with Reading Family Aid Group, the caseworkers have also visited 22 other problem families with varying frequency according to their needs. These families have 108 children of school age and under and so their potential problems are obvious. The families have a large range of problems and may need a lot of help and supervision during the early months of visiting. The aim of the work is to rehabilitate the families, and in many cases this is possible. However, some families are never able to achieve this and where it is thought advisable to preserve the family life, intensive work continues to help the family in whatever ways are felt best.

Over the year we have been asked to visit an increasing number of families who have rent arrears. It is usually found that this is just one of many problems, and it is hoped that by visiting at this point it may be possible to help in the early stages of their difficulties, before their problems overwhelm them.

The number of people coming to the office in need of help continues to rise. The majority come with accommodation problems and although 81 of them stated they were homeless or were about to be evicted, this did not generally prove to be as serious as it sounded. The following table gives particulars of visits to the office in 1960:—

Total Calls	New	Repeats	Reason for call				
			General Acc.	Threatened Eviction	Homeless	Problem Family	Misc.
398 (347)	168 (210)	230 (137)	255 (201)	59 (49)	22 (40)	10 (10)	52 (42)

The 1959 figures are shown in brackets underneath

### Reading Family Aid Group

The object of this Group is to maintain and support problem families and by this preventative social work avoid their disintegration.

The Group now works with 23 families who are visited regularly. Of these 9 are visited by the family caseworkers and 14 by voluntary workers, all of whom are trained social workers. The N.S.P.C.C. attends the Group meetings and works in close co-operation with the other workers. During the year one case has been closed as the family could now manage on their own, and six new families have been taken on. These families have 122 children of school age and under, and a further three children are in various institutions.

In co-operation with the Children's Department it was possible to send 10 children for a holiday to country foster homes. A number of outings have also been arranged for the children, amongst them a day by the sea, a visit to Bertram Mills Circus and various Xmas parties. The Reading B.P. Scout Guild continued their interest in the families and a number of boys had a day or week-end outing with them.

A clothing and furniture store from which the workers can obtain material assistance for the families is organised by a small group of workers. These workers with the Treasurer raise funds for the work, holidays and outings. The Group would like to thank all subscribers for their continued interest, financial help and material gifts.

### Homeless Families

During 1960, 16 women with 39 children have been admitted to Woodlands through the family caseworkers, and also three single or childless women. Although this figure compares favourably with the 81 people interviewed who stated they were homeless or about to be evicted, it is a considerable increase on the number of admissions in previous years.

Most of the families left Woodlands for rooms or relatives' homes, but three were rehoused by the Council.

## SECTION 29—HOME HELP SERVICE

Demands on this service continued to increase, not only in the number of patients dealt with but also in the amount of service required by individual patients. In fact, it was necessary to obtain a supplementary estimate during the year in order to provide the minimum amount of service which was considered necessary.



The Service has operated at full stretch during the whole year, about two-thirds of the beneficiaries are old people, many of these aged people live alone, and through age or deformity are very helpless. It has been found necessary to increase the number of visits each day, and to give a seven days service to cover these patients.

Nineteen families have been helped during the year by the Night Attendants, 864 hours were given to this Service, the demand for the Soiled Laundry Service continues to increase, and is a great asset to families and Home Helps who are attending incontinent patients where there are no facilities for drying clothes.

There has been a steady increase in the Maternity Section for full and part-time help.

The following is a summary of the cases of domestic help which was provided during the year:—

Maternity (including expectant mothers)	.	.	304
Tuberculosis	.	.	5
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	.	.	1,175
Others	.	.	315
			<hr/> 1,799 <hr/>

The number in which help began prior to 1960:—

Maternity cases (including expectant mothers)	.	17
Tuberculosis	.	3
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	.	786
Others	.	109

The number of Domestic Helps employed at the end of the year was as follows:

Whole-time	.	1
Part-time	.	201

We are finding that it is not as easy to recruit home helps as it used to be since there appear to be an increasing number of opportunities for well-paid part-time work for married women. Practically all our home helps are married women with family commitments, and I must pay a very high tribute to the conscientious manner in which they carry out their work. In a great many cases they give up their own time to pay additional visits to old people for whom they are responsible.



## SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Work performed		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Number of Householders helped at first day of period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. ..	928	915	917	918	944	918	905	905	933	922	920	918
(b) Full-time	.. ..	6	10	5	6	7	7	4	4	9	6	3	10
Number of Householders helped at last day of period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. ..	913	913	916	949	913	955	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Full-time	.. ..	11	4	5	8	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Source of New Applications:—													
(a) Direct application by Doctor	.. ..	28	16	22	21	18	9	15	14	12	23	14	14
(b) " " Hospital	.. ..	9	11	10	11	17	16	14	8	6	11	9	16
(c) " " Midwife	.. ..	52	42	31	35	34	31	29	27	18	82	26	28
(d) " " Householder	.. ..	13	11	10	10	16	12	8	7	10	17	12	7
(e) " " Welfare Worker	.. ..	15	11	15	14	17	6	9	8	5	18	11	10
Classification of reasons of help being sought:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity and chronic sickness	.. ..	47	31	36	37	46	22	24	21	22	44	29	27
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. ..	17	14	20	19	21	17	18	10	9	21	17	19
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. ..	53	44	32	35	35	35	32	33	20	86	26	29
(d) Miscellaneous	.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases where Helps unnecessary		16	7	21	17	17	12	14	16	6	16	21	18
Number of Households receiving help for the first time during period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. ..	75	54	63	74	73	53	53	43	39	71	53	51
(b) Full-time	.. ..	19	17	9	14	16	17	19	13	13	17	10	18
Classification of reasons why Households had received help for over one month at the end of period:—													
(a) Old age and infirmity and chronic sickness	.. ..	735	750	782	804	794	769	837	715	769	852	849	843
(b) Acute Sickness and convalescence	.. ..	71	82	63	69	58	65	55	47	48	64	64	71
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. ..	2	4	4	2	2	1	—	2	1	10	8	12
(d) Miscellaneous	.. ..	5	4	4	4	2	3	4	3	2	2	1	2
Number of hours worked by part-time Helps employed during period		22073½	18128½	18417½	16942½	23442½	17675½	19072½	12757½	14897½	20391½	16851½	16935½
Number of part-time Helps employed at last day of period		221	223	221	222	221	218	213	205	202	206	206	202
Number of visits paid by Organisation:—													
(a) New cases	.. ..	108	104	110	69	117	77	111	60	71	117	76	82
(b) Re-visits	.. ..	363	389	414	377	464	294	467	397	358	537	404	425
Meals by Home Helps (1 week)		1,016	1,112	1,005	959	960	872	821	871	854	813	807	785

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

### (1) Administration

Much of 1960 was spent in making the necessary administrative arrangements for the Council to carry out its responsibilities when the Mental Health Act became fully operative on November 1st, 1960. These arrangements included the appointment of the appropriate officers and the delegation to them of certain functions prescribed by the Act and various Regulations. Close liaison was observed with the local mental hospitals and general practitioners in order to integrate our arrangements with the Local Hospital Board and our Executive Council. Certain approved medical practitioners were appointed under Section 28 of the Act—those appointed are either members of a local hospital staff or of the Local Health Authority. The Medical Officer of Health and his Deputy were appointed Principal Mental Welfare Officer and Deputy Principal Mental Welfare Officer respectively. Three senior mental welfare officers were appointed and they are assisted by two mental welfare officers. After a good deal of discussion we decided that the mental deficiency work should be carried out by one officer and should not be mixed with work in connection with mental illness, apart from arrangements for relief duties. Therefore, Miss Robb has continued to be responsible for the welfare of all sub-normal and severely sub-normal patients in the town. So far as mental illness is concerned, the town has been divided into eastern and western portions, each portion being the responsibility of one senior mental welfare officer and one mental welfare officer.

It is far too soon to comment on the working of the new Act and to express any opinion as to whether or not the claims made for it in certain quarters have been substantiated.

Probably it would be wiser to withhold any opinions until I report on our work in 1961.

We have been taking a few severely sub-normal children into the junior training centre before they have reached the age of five years, but it is obvious to me that it is not wise to admit children who suffer from severe handicap in addition to severe mental handicap. These children are generally on the waiting list for hospital but the waiting period is often very long. For this reason the Committee decided to try to open a small centre where children could be brought daily for care and supervision. The main object of such a centre would be to relieve the parents from the very great burden which they carry but as I see it there is very little prospect of being able to carry out any effective training of such children. I do not visualise more than about six children attending such a centre at any one time. Whether or not our hopes will be fulfilled remains to be seen—there are certain legal difficulties about the premises we have in view.

### (2) Mental Health Year

1960 was Mental Health Year and July 9th to 16th was designated Mental Health Week by the United Kingdom Committee for the World Federation of Mental Health. The Minister of Health asked local authorities to bring to the notice of the public, during this week, their schemes in relation to mental health and welfare. On Thursday, July 14th, we arranged an Open Day at both Training Centres for members of the public. The Open Day was advertised in the local press and, at the same time, a short article about our local authority mental welfare services was also published. A further account of this Open Day is embodied in the report on the Training Centres, but it is encouraging to record that several interested persons visited both premises. Due to the kindness of the Director we were allowed to show a special exhibition of the work and training schemes carried out at both Training Centres in the Art Gallery during the week October 29th to November 5th.



### (3) Mental Illness

(a) Report by Duly Authorised Officer. Mr. House has submitted the following particulars about his work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890–1930, for the ten months ending October 31st, 1960:—

During the period January 1st, 1960 to October 31st, 1960, the following have been ADMITTED into various Mental Hospitals from Reading:—

<i>Lunacy Act, 1890</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Section 16—Certified under Summary Reception Order . . . . .	4	9	13
Section 20—Removed under Duly Authorised Officers' Order—3 days . . . . .	8	18	26
Section 21—Removed under Justices' Order—14 days . . . . .	—	2	2
Section 21a—Persons removed under Section 20, whose Orders were extended for a further period of fourteen days by Certificate of Hospital Medical Officer . . . . .	4	13	17
Persons removed under Section 21, whose Orders were extended for a further period of fourteen days by Certificate of Hospital Medical Officer .	—	1	1
Persons examined by Justice but NO Order made .	1	—	1

#### *Mental Treatment Act, 1930*

Section 1—Voluntary Patients . . . . .	4	5	9
Section 5—Temporary Patients . . . . .	—	1	1

The following Reading patients have been REGRADED during their in-patient stay at Mental Hospitals:—

#### *From Lunacy Act 1890*

Section 6 to Voluntary Class . . . . .	—	—	—
Section 16 to Voluntary Class . . . . .	—	2	2
Section 16 to Informal Class . . . . .	33	59	92
Section 20 to Informal Class . . . . .	2	3	5
Section 21 to Informal Class . . . . .	—	—	—
Section 21a to Informal Class . . . . .	6	8	14

The following Reading patients have LEFT Mental Hospital:—

#### *Lunacy Act 1890*

Left hospital on trial period prior to discharge for a period of one month (4 or 5 weeks) . . . . .	—	5	5
Discharged recovered at expiration of trial period .	—	5	5
Discharged recovered at expiration of Section 20 Order . . . . .	—	3	3
Discharged recovered—Section 16 . . . . .	—	4	4
Discharged relieved . . . . .	—	6	6

#### *Mental Treatment Act 1930*

Voluntary Patients . . . . .	4	5	9
Temporary Patients . . . . .	—	1	1



The following Reading patients have been TRANSFERRED:—

*Lunacy Act 1890*

Section 16—Transferred to another mental hos- pital . . . . .	1	1	2
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The following DEATHS have occurred amongst Reading patients in Mental Hospitals:—

*Lunacy Act, 1890*

Section 16 . . . . .	1	6	7
----------------------	---	---	---

*Mental Treatment Act, 1930*

Section 1 . . . . .	2	10	12
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**(b) Report by Mental Welfare Officer**

Mrs. A. J. Tregillus, who is assisted by Mr. Lacy, writes:—

The year is memorable for the fact that the new Mental Health Act came into full operation. It also brought the completion of the alterations to the Day Hospital in Eldon Road, and the promise of it being open to receive patients early in 1961.

The local authority Occupational Therapy Centre continues to provide invaluable help with patients who are not suitable for gainful occupation yet are capable of selected occupation. With Miss Turner's help we aim to prepare some of the ex-hospital patients to readjust to a routine of work and preparation to take up or return to full or part-time employment. Some move on to refresher or training courses arranged by the Ministry of Labour.

The patience and understanding of the Domestic Help Supervisors has frequently resulted in just the right kind of Help being chosen for the difficult patient. This service plays a large part in the social work being carried out for the psychiatric patients and from our side we are grateful for the close and happy co-operation between the two departments.

The Medical Officer of Health kindly agreed to the employment of an additional "Help" to assist with the budgeting of a patient's income and expenditure. In the past, the stress occasioned by the patient's inability to cope had resulted in her admission to hospital. The assistance of the "Help", for a few weeks only, not only put the patient on the right side of her balance sheet, but resulted in better food and general housekeeping for the entire family.

A small number of women patients have been introduced to the Homemaking Centre, and with Miss Roxby's assistance, this has provided extremely satisfactory results.

During the year Fair Mile has taken several patients for short spells to give their families a rest. The need for a hostel of our own to take cases of this kind, as well as the more obvious case of need, appears as desirable as ever.

From January 1st to October 31st, 1,335 visits were made by the two Workers concerned. When the Mental Health Act came into operation the same Workers then became responsible for the care of mentally ill patients in the western area of the Borough.

Visits to the Workers amounted to 540 over the year. In addition they visited clinics at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and case conferences at Fair Mile Hospital.

## (4) Mental Deficiency

Miss J. Robb presents the following particulars for Reading patients dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913–1938, for the period January 1st to October 31st, 1960:—

							Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
							M.	F.	M.	F.
(1) Particulars of cases reported during the period January 1st, 1960 to October 31st, 1960										
(a) Cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with"										
Number in which action taken on reports by:—										
(1) Local Education Authorities on children—										
(i) While at school or liable to attend school ... ..							1	—	—	—
(ii) On leaving special schools ... ..							—	—	4	—
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools ... ..							—	—	—	—
(2) Police or by Courts ... ..							—	—	—	—
(3) Other sources ... ..							—	—	1	—
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any grounds ... ..										
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives and are thus excluded from (a) or (b) ... ..										
Total of 1 (a)–(c) inc. ... ..							1	—	8	—

							Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
							M.	F.	M.	F.
(2) Disposal of cases reported during the period January 1st, 1960 to October 31st, 1960										
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1 (a) ), number:										
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision ... ..							1	—	4	—
(ii) Placed under Guardianship ... ..							—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety" ... ..							—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals ... ..							—	—	1	—
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1 (b) ), number:										
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision ... ..							—	—	3	—
(ii) Action unnecessary ... ..							—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported at 1 (a) or (b) above who removed from the area or died before disposal was arranged ... ..										
Total of 2 (a)–(c) inc. ... ..							1	—	8	—

The following tables give the number of persons ordinarily resident in Reading in the various categories on October 31st, 1960:—

	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Statutory Supervision . . . . .	144	115
Statutory Guardianship . . . . .	1	—
Licence . . . . .	7	7
Supervised on behalf of other Authorities . . . . .	2	6
<i>Hospitals</i>		
Borocourt . . . . .	39	30
Brentry Colony . . . . .	5	—
Wayland House, Bradfield . . . . .	—	29
St. Mary's Home, Alton . . . . .	—	1
Pewsey Hospital, Pewsey . . . . .	21	15
Botley's Park . . . . .	2	—
Special Institutions . . . . .	4	1
Manor House, Aylesbury . . . . .	6	6
Normansfield, Teddington . . . . .	—	1
Wokingham Hospital . . . . .	—	1
Winslow Hospital . . . . .	1	1
Purley Park, Reading . . . . .	2	—
Agricultural Hostel, Newent, Glos. . . . .	1	—
Smith's Hospital, Henley . . . . .	2	—
Ravenswood, Crowthorne . . . . .	1	—
	<hr/> 238	<hr/> 213

### (5) Mental Health Act, 1959

The following table relates to the disposal of patients for the remainder of the year 1960 after the Mental Health Act became operative on November 1st.

#### Patients under Local Health Authority Care at December 31st, 1960

	<i>Type of Case</i>	<i>Under 16</i>		<i>16 and over</i>	
		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Receiving training or occupation in day centre (*in O/T centre for physically handicapped) . . . . .	*Mentally Ill	—	—	5	2
	Subnormal	—	—	1	1
	Severely S/Normal	11	16	23	17
Resident in L.A. home/hostel . . . . .	Mentally Ill	—	—	—	1
Awaiting residence in L.A. home/hostel . . . . .	Mentally Ill	—	—	5	4
Receiving home visits . . . . .	Mentally Ill	—	—	63	92
	Psychopath	—	1	—	2
	Subnormal	—	—	52	25
	Severely S/Normal	7	5	14	32
Total Number of Patients involved . . . . .	Mentally Ill	—	—	73	99
	Psychopaths	—	1	—	2
	Subnormal	—	—	53	26
	Severely S/Normal	18	21	37	49
<i>Waiting list for admission to hospital</i>					
No. of patients in urgent need of hospital care . . . . .	Severely S/Normal	2	2	3	1
No. of patients not in urgent need of hospital care . . . . .	Subnormal	—	—	1	1
	Severely S/Normal	—	—	6	7
<i>No. of patients admitted temporarily for residential care</i>					
To N.H.S. hospitals . . . . .	Mentally Ill	—	—	2	2
	Severely S/Normal	3	2	2	2
Elsewhere . . . . .	Mentally Ill	—	—	—	3



<i>No. of patients admitted to hospital during the period November 1st, 1960—December 31st, 1960</i>					
(Fair Mile and Hungerford)	.	.	Mentally Ill	—	—
(Borocourt and Pewsey)	.	.	Subnormal and		15
			Severely S/Normal	—	—
					4
					—

*No. of patients discharged from hospital during the period November 1st, 1960—December 31st, 1960*

		<i>Under 16</i>		<i>16 and over</i>	
		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
(Fair Mile and Hungerford),	Mentally Ill	—	—	9	44
(Borocourt and Pewsey),	Subnormal and Severely S/Normal.	—	—	—	1
Number regraded from					
informal to a compulsorily,	Mentally Ill	—	—	1	—
detained classification					
during 1960					

## (6) Training Centres

Miss Barkas, the Supervisor, has contributed the following report on the work carried out at both Centres during the year:—

### (a) Wakefield Lodge Junior Training Centre

At the end of December, 1960, there were 34 children attending the Centre including 5 from Berkshire County Council. Four more children have been accepted to begin training here in January, 1961.

During the year one boy and one girl have been transferred to work at The Beeches Senior Training Centre and one boy, aged 7, was promoted to the Avenue School in September.

The Junior Centre is now prepared to accept a limited number of children at an early age if they are likely to benefit from training. Our youngest child is 3½ years.

The Garden Room was taken into regular use at the beginning of the Autumn Term for P.E. instruction, Music and Movement, games and free play for the younger group. This room could also be used for training the mildly psychotic child in suitable cases.

The staff consists of the following:—

One Supervisor (who has supervision of both Wakefield Lodge and The Beeches); 4 Assistant Supervisors; 1 Nursery Attendant, and appropriate domestic staff.

## Transport

Arrangements remain unchanged from last year.

## Medical and Dental Services, etc.

Once again we have been indebted to the Deputy Medical Officer of Health for an annual medical inspection and also to the School Dental Officer for dental treatment. A speech therapist has visited once weekly to give advice and treatment to four children considered suitable for it. Cleanliness inspections have been carried out at intervals during the year.

## Meals

These have been supplied by the School Meals Service as before, including ⅓ pint of milk for each child.

## Activities

A comprehensive training for each child has been our aim in order (a) to make the child socially acceptable, (b) to improve posture and physique through P.E., music, and movement, and (c) to develop the child's skills through a variety of handiwork. There was also a large number of social events arranged for the enjoyment of the children.

## Students

Once again we have been pleased to accept students taking the Course of Training for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, sponsored by N.A.M.H.

### (b) The Beeches Senior Training Centre

At the end of December, 1960, there were 44 pupils. from the age of 16 upwards, on the register including three from Berkshire County Council.

The staff consists of:—

One Supervisor (who also has supervision of Wakefield Lodge); 1 Senior Assistant (male) with supervisory duties; 2 Assistant Supervisors (female); 1 part-time boot repairer, giving 2 half-day sessions weekly, 1 Caretaker, who undertakes gardening instruction, and also assists with the male pupils.

There is also some part-time domestic help.

## Transport Arrangements

The same facilities were available as for Wakefield Lodge.

## Medical and Dental Services

At this Centre a routine medical inspection was carried out by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and the School Dental Officer kindly supplied dental treatment where required.

I feel that the work of this Centre has progressed favourably during the year. It is interesting to note that one boy in particular has matured very satisfactorily since working in a group of older boys.

It is also gratifying to note that the wood chopping industry has trebled its output during the year and that the orders for Christmas crackers have remained steady. In addition, the production of other goods has increased by 25%. Needlework orders have been received and our goods are still sold through the Helping Hand Shop and at our Sale of Work. Weekly domestic science instruction has continued throughout the year.

This Centre is prepared to undertake repair work, e.g. re-seating cane chairs and other types of seating. Car cleaning has also been undertaken.

## Employment

One girl has left to take up employment in a teashop and another girl is employed at Greenlands Nursing Home. In December an older male pupil left to take up employment at the Post Office for sweeping and cleaning duties.

During the year a new experiment has been tried by Mr. Allen, viz. boys and girls who are beginning to show promise are being sent out from the Centre for short periods of approximately two hours. This is proving to be a valuable measure in that it gradually gives the pupils more self-confidence to enable them to face the more exacting situations of possible full-time employment.

On December 24th a party of 16 boys and girls with 4 staff in attendance were once again privileged to visit the Circus at Olympia, by kind invitation of the Bertram Mills Circus Co. We were again indebted to the Beeches Parents' Association for defraying the cost of transport.



## **Annual Sale of Work**

This sale took place at St. John's Hall on November 30th. His Worship the Mayor, accompanied by the Mayoress, kindly opened the proceedings over which the Chairman of the Mental Welfare Sub-Committee presided.

## **Students**

Students have been received at The Beeches, especially those who intend to teach adult pupils.

## **Visitors**

During the year both Centres were visited by doctors, teachers of backward children, and others engaged in welfare work.

## **Beeches Parents' Association**

Once again, on behalf of both Centres, our thanks are due to this Association for their interest and for their untiring efforts in raising money for our outings and extra equipment.

## **Mental Health Year, 1960**

To mark this year both our Centres made special efforts to bring to the notice of the public the work of training the mentally handicapped.

On July 14th an Open Day was held at both the Junior and Senior Centres for the public, after being advertised in the local press. The response, as shown by the number of interested people who visited, was gratifying. A normal day's routine was carried out and people were free to come and go more or less as they wished.

Miss Harman showed a series of her coloured transparencies of the Wakefield Lodge children "At Work and at Play", at St. Luke's Hall, Reading, on July 18th.

Two Public Exhibitions were also arranged during the year.

First of all, through the kindness of the Borough Librarian, we were allowed the use of the show case at the entrance to the Public Library from March 7th to 21st. Articles of work from both Centres were shown there.

We were also indebted to the Director of the Art Gallery for kindly placing part of the Gallery at our disposal from October 29th to November 25th, thus enabling us to set out in detail a comprehensive exhibition of work and training schemes carried out at both Centres.



CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1960 CLASSIFIED IN ALL AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Totals	...
	At All Ages	Age Groups											
		Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over	Unknown		
Scarlet Fever ...	68	7	14	26	18	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	175	37	33	73	8	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria ...	19	9	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles ...	36	3	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Encephalitis (Post-Infectious)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smallpox	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paratyphoid	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers (excluding Paratyphoid)	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malaria ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cholera ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Plague ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Typhus ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Relapsing Fever	20	1	2	6	4	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal Infections	68	5	5	9	3	10	15	10	10	9	1	1	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	420	28	63	59	125	38	21	42	29	14	1	1	1

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The table on page 67 gives particulars of notification of infectious disease. These figures include patients who are not normally resident in the Borough.

### Diphtheria

For the twelfth year in succession there has been no case of diphtheria in the Borough.

### Scarlet Fever

Sixty-eight cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as opposed to 114 in 1959. Over a third of the cases were in the 5 to 10 year age groups, the majority of the remainder falling almost equally within the 10 to 15 year and the 3 to 5 year age groups. The overall age distribution was roughly similar to that for 1959, but there was a much greater preponderance of cases within the 3 to 5 year age group that year than in 1960, though the greatest number still fell within the 5 to 10 year age group.

### Whooping Cough

There was a marked increase in the number of notifications for this disease over those for 1959. Of the 175 cases notified 19 were in infants under 1 year of age, 37 in the 1 to 3 year age group, 33 in the 3 to 5 year age group, and 73 in the 5 to 10 year age group; the remainder were spread out in diminishing frequency over the 15 to 65 and over-age groups. It is difficult to make valid comments on this increase of notifications except to point out that diagnosis of this disease may be uncertain within bacteriological confirmation, particularly in previously immunised cases. Two cases were notified who had previously been notified two years before. Over half the cases notified had not been immunised, about a quarter had received only a primary course of immunisation, and eight had received a booster immunising dose five years after the primary course, and 8 cases had received a booster dose one year after the primary immunising course.

### Measles

There were only 19 cases of measles notified during the year.

### Poliomyelitis

I am pleased to record that no cases of poliomyelitis were notified in 1960. Following on the notification of only one case in 1959 this fact is very encouraging. It would seem that vaccination is proving an effective measure, but I think it will be necessary to study the future trend of incidence of poliomyelitis over several years before we can be really sure of its efficacy.

The following tables give particulars of the incidence of poliomyelitis since 1953:—

TABLE 1

1953

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	—	2	—	2
15 years and over	1	2	—	3
Total	1	4	—	5

1954—No cases

TABLE 2

1955

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	1	—	—	1
15 years and over	3	—	1	4
Total	4	—	1	5

TABLE 3

1956

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	2	—	—	2
15 years and over	—	1	—	1
Total	2	1	—	3

TABLE 4

1957

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	21	20	2	41
15 years and over	2	6	1	8
Total	23	26	3	49



TABLE 5

1958

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	1	1	—	2
15 years and over	2	1	—	3
Total	3	2	—	5

TABLE 6

1959

Age Group	Non-Paralytic	Paralytic	Deaths	Total
0-14+ years ...	1	—	—	1
15 years and over	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	1

TABLE 7

Year	1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959	
Age Group	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5+ months ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
6-11+ months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4+ years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	5	—	—	—	—
5-9+ years ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	11*	9*	—	1	—	—
10-14+ years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	—
15-19+ years ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20-24+ years ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 years and over	—	1	—	—	1	1*	—	—	2*	5	1	1	—	—
Total males and females in each year ...	1	4	—	—	3	2	1	2	29	20	2	3	1	—
Grand Total	5		—		5		3		49		5		1	

\* Includes 1 death

## Infectious Hepatitis

Several cases of this disease occurred throughout the year, particularly amongst school children. A more detailed account of this outbreak is to be found in the Annual Report of the Principal School Medical Officer.

## Sonné Dysentery

Several cases of this disease came to our notice during the year, none of which appeared to have been seriously ill. This is generally a mild disease though it can be quite serious, especially for the very young. Usually our policy is to exclude any child from a school or day nursery who has diarrhoea as soon as possible, and not to readmit

him until two or three days after clinical recovery. However, we do ask for one negative specimen of stool before allowing an affected child to return to a day nursery or nursery school. The same criterion of one negative specimen is adopted for a food handler or anyone working closely with young children such as a nursery nurse.

One case notified was a worker in a jam factory, and as a result of a visit to this factory the manager promised to put up a notice asking employees to report immediately should they be suffering from symptoms of intestinal infection.

**(a) Salmonellosis. Paratyphoid B**

A 13-year old schoolboy was notified by his general medical practitioner as suffering from paratyphoid fever. The illness, which consisted of headache, *malaise*, diarrhoea, vomiting and a swinging temperature, commenced on August 25th, which was the day following his return from a fortnight's holiday at a cottage near Whitby, Yorkshire.

The patient was admitted to the Park Hospital for treatment, subsequent follow-up of the family contacts proving negative, though the two sibs of school age were excluded from school during the incubation period. As it seemed most likely that the boy was infected during his holiday at Whitby, the Medical Officer of Health for that area was notified, but no source of infection was ever traced. After a prolonged stay in hospital of some six weeks or so, the patient was discharged and returned to school at the beginning of this year.

**(b) Salmonella Thompson**

An elderly arthritic patient was notified as suffering from food poisoning and the organism *Salmonella Thompson* was isolated from her stools. Careful investigation failed to reveal any definite source of infection although there was some reason to suspect some cold chicken which had been roasted three days earlier.

**(c) Salmonella Typhimurium**

At the end of July an interesting outbreak of *Salmonella Typhimurium* food poisoning occurred. A Hungarian family of three and a friend consumed an evening meal of cold pork brawn, purchased at a local food shop, and approximately 20 hours later the two men of the party became ill with shivering, fever, abdominal pain and diarrhoea. One of the women ate some of the pork brawn the day after the men were taken ill and developed similar symptoms 17 hours later. The cold brawn had been kept in the larder, there being no refrigerator in the house.

Specimens of stool were sent to the Public Health Laboratory from the affected persons together with the remainder of the pork brawn. *Salmonella Typhimurium* was isolated from the faeces of the female patient and also from the pork brawn. The shop from which it was purchased was visited and the staff asked to submit specimens of stool to the laboratory for investigation. The staff at the shop had not had any symptoms of intestinal infection and all their specimens proved to be negative.

The director of the shop telephoned his suppliers in London on the morning of our visit, and was told that there had been complaints from Bristol and London regarding this same pork brawn. The Medical Officer of Health of the area in which the suppliers are situated was notified and he was able to procure a sample of the actual consignment of meat concerned from the suppliers and to submit it for bacteriological examination. *Salmonella Typhimurium* was isolated from this sample and the information passed to the Medical Officer of the Borough in which the meat factory itself was situated. We were informed that as a result of the Medical Officer of Health's visit to the meat factory various improvements in equipment and changes of method were introduced.



(d) A boy of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years was admitted to hospital with acute abdominal pain and appendicectomy was performed on admission. Subsequently, *Salmonella Typhimurium* was isolated from his stool. Investigation of the home suggested that he may have been infected from his sister, but no definite source of infection was ascertained.

### Tapeworm (*Taenia Saginata*)

A case which may be of some interest was that of a school canteen worker who was found to be infected with the beef tapeworm or *taenia saginata*. Since this tapeworm is not associated with cysticercosis, the type of infection which presents in an encysted form in various parts of the human body having been transmitted directly or indirectly from one human being to another, it was agreed that this patient could resume work in the canteen once her course of treatment was completed and her general medical practitioner considered her fit enough to do so.

### Special Investigations

Following an enquiry by the School Meals Service into the advisability of roasting meat overnight in order to facilitate carving and serving on the following morning, an investigation was carried out into the relative effectiveness of quick and slow cooking methods on artificially infected meat. An investigation was also currently carried out into the proportion of raw carcase meat supplied to school kitchens which was likely to be infected by *clostridium welchii*. A fuller account of this investigation is to be found in the current Annual Report of the School Health Service.

## TUBERCULOSIS

These remarks should be read in conjunction with those under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act and with any comments made in my report as Principal School Medical Officer. The following table shows the number of deaths due to disease since 1938:—



TABLE 1

Year	Number of Cases notified		Notification Rate per 100,000 of population		Number of deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population		Population
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1928-37 Average	117	22	—	—	76	15	0.76	0.15	—
1938	91	31	90.63	30.87	58	6	0.58	0.05	100,400
1939	95	40	94.43	39.76	52	12	0.50	0.10	100,600
1940	117	30	102.09	26.18	74	18	0.66	0.16	114,600
1941	137	50	109.77	40.06	68	16	0.54	0.13	124,800
1942	186	40	157.89	33.95	60	10	0.51	0.08	117,800
1943	185	30	163.71	26.54	57	13	0.51	0.11	113,000
1944	135	29	121.25	26.04	55	14	0.49	0.13	111,340
1945	119	16	109.34	14.69	60	12	0.55	0.11	108,830
1946	152	25	135.51	22.49	73	11	0.65	0.09	111,340
1947	168	27	148.72	23.90	70	6	0.62	0.05	112,960
1948	132	24	115.28	20.92	50	12	0.43	0.10	114,500
1949	130	9	112.65	7.80	35	6	0.30	0.05	115,500
1950	143	10	123.52	8.64	39	3	0.34	0.03	115,700
1951	115	3	99.91	2.61	34	—	0.29	0.00	115,100
1952	128	12	110.54	10.36	22	2	0.19	0.02	115,800
1953	96	26	81.56	22.09	20	4	0.17	0.03	117,700
1954	85	5	71.85	4.22	6	2	0.05	0.02	118,300
1955	131	7	110.92	5.92	9	1	0.07	0.01	118,100
1956	109	11	92.45	9.33	9	1	0.07	0.01	117,900
1957	112	15	94.83	12.70	6	1	0.05	0.01	118,100
1958	107	8	90.75	6.79	8	—	0.07	—	117,900
1959	73	6	61.76	5.08	7	1	0.06	0.01	118,200
1960	68	7	57.57	5.93	7	—	0.06	—	118,110

Once again I wish to thank Dr. Karlsh, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the very great help he has given me in connection with tuberculosis and diseases of the chest. I am indebted to him for most of the information which appears in the following pages of this report.

TABLE II

Source and Type of new cases of tuberculous infection first seen in 1960

	M.M.R.	Contact	Odeca Clinic	Doctors' Cases	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals
<b>Respiratory Tuberculosis:</b>							
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i>							
Positive ... ..	—	3	—	1	—	—	4
Negative ... ..	—	14	1	—	3	1	19
<i>Pleural Effusion:</i>							
Positive ... ..	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Negative ... ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>							
R.B. 1 ... ..	—	—	3	1	3	1	8
R.B. 2 ... ..	1	1	7	1	3	—	13
R.B. 3 ... ..	—	1	3	1	5	—	10
R.A. 1 ... ..	—	1	—	5	—	—	6
R.A. 2 ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
R.A. 3 ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
<b>Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis</b> ...	—	—	—	—	8	—	8
<b>Total</b> ... ..	1	20	17	11	24	2	75

It will be seen that the decrease in notifications which commenced last year has continued in 1960. It is disappointing, however, that of the 67 respiratory cases 38 were sputum positive and ten of these were of an advanced type.

### Contacts

Six hundred and forty-nine new contacts were examined, compared with 546 in 1959. Twenty new notifications, of which five were bacteriologically positive, were obtained from this source.

### Discharges from the Tuberculosis Register

Notified cases only:—

Recovered . . . . .	27
Died (all causes) . . . . .	19
Transferred . . . . .	44
Other . . . . .	20
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>110</b>

### Diseases other than Tuberculosis

Eight hundred and seventy-eight new non-tuberculous patients were seen in 1960, compared with 808 in 1959 and 491 in 1950. Of this total, 138 were admitted for investigation to Peppard Chest Hospital and a smaller number of patients with more acute conditions to the medical wards of Prospect Park Hospital. The remaining investigations were carried out on an outpatient basis.

TABLE III  
Diagnoses of Non-Tuberculous Cases  
First Seen in 1960

[illegible]





## Care and After-Care

Reference to this important subject will be found in my remarks on our work under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

## Venereal Disease

During the year we were able to make arrangements with the Royal Berkshire Hospital whereby the nursing orderly attached to the Clinic carries out follow-up visits on behalf of the Local Authority. I am pleased to report that, in the main, his efforts have been successful.

The following are details of patients from Reading who attended for the first time in 1960:—

Syphilis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
Gonorrhoea	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	116
Other Conditions	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	199

It will be seen that there has been a significant increase in patients suffering from Gonorrhoea and other conditions, many of which are no doubt venereal in origin.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water

Mr. O. Kean, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., has been good enough to supply the following information:—

On April 1st, 1960, the water undertaking of the Corporation of Reading—together with fourteen other undertakings or parts—was transferred to the Thames Valley Water Board.

The statutory area of the Board comprises 573 square miles, extending over the major part of Berkshire, part of South Oxfordshire, and a small part of Hampshire.

The population served is estimated at 332,367.

Since April 1st the work of organising the central administration at Reading, unifying the transferred districts, providing branch offices and Depots at convenient points, investigating deficiencies and future requirements, and preparing a programme of capital works, has proceeded steadily.

The Borough of Reading is still supplied from the same sources as before, i.e. the River Kennet and deep boreholes at Pangbourne, and throughout the year has had ample supplies of water, of satisfactory quality.

The chemical and bacteriological analysis of water was continued during the year in the Board's Laboratory at the Central Depot, Berkeley Avenue, Reading.

Sampling is now carried out over the whole of the area covered by the board, with samples taken from the raw water sources, from all stages of the treatment processes, final waters and from the distribution system.

Additionally, samples were submitted for independent examination by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The following are submitted as typical of reports made on the raw and final waters from the two sources of supply to the Reading area.

The well supply, clear and bright in appearance and of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity, requires only precautionary chlorination in the way of treatment, while the river source in contrast is greatly affected by rainfall and seasonal conditions, and requires treatment by carefully controlled filtration and chlorination to yield a pure and wholesome final water.



# RIVER KENNET SOURCE

(Results expressed in parts per million where appropriate)

	Raw Water					Final Water
Appearance ... ..	Slightly opalescent with a little colour and suspended matter and a small deposit of mineral and organic debris					Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen) ... ..	Filtered : 10					Less than 5
Turbidity (Silica Scale) ... ..	13	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour ... ..	Nil	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH. ... ..	8.0	...	...	...	...	7.7
Chlorides ... ..	14.5	...	...	...	...	15.0
Hardness : Total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ... ..	240	...	...	...	...	235
„ Carbonate (temporary) ... ..	205	...	...	...	...	200
„ Non-Carbonate (permanent) ... ..	35	...	...	...	...	35
Nitrates (N) ... ..	3.4	...	...	...	...	3.4
Nitrites (N) ... ..	0.01	...	...	...	...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) ... ..	0.060	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) ... ..	0.175	...	...	...	...	0.070
Iron ... ..	0.24	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.02
Other metals ... ..	Absent	...	...	...	...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	5
Total Dissolved Solids, dried at 180° C. ... ..	290	...	...	...	...	285
Alkalinity ... ..	205	...	...	...	...	200
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 27° C.) ... ..	1.75	...	...	...	...	0.70
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	...	0.4
Fluoride ... ..	—	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>						
No. of colonies developing on Agar in :—						
1 day at 37° C. ... ..	8000	...	...	...	...	15
2 days at 37° C. ... ..	10,000	...	...	...	...	18
3 days at 22° C. ... ..	23,000	...	...	...	...	20
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>						
Present in ... ..	0.1 mls.	...	...	...	...	—
Absent from ... ..	0.01 mls.	...	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls. ... ..	11,000	...	...	...	...	0
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>						
Present in ... ..	0.1 mls.	...	...	...	...	—
Absent from ... ..	0.01 mls.	...	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls. ... ..	800	...	...	...	...	0

## PANGBOURNE WELL SOURCE

	Raw Water				Final Water
Appearance ... ..	Clear and bright	...	...	...	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen) ... ..	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale) ... ..	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
Odour ... ..	Nil	...	...	...	Faint, chlorinous
pH. ... ..	7.0	...	...	...	7.0
Chloride ... ..	13.0	...	...	...	13.0
Hardness: Total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ... ..	285	...	...	...	285
„ Carbonate (temporary) ... ..	255	...	...	...	255
„ Non-Carbonate (permanent) ... ..	30	...	...	...	30
Nitrates (N) ... ..	5.0	...	...	...	5.0
Nitrites (N) ... ..	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) ... ..	0.000	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) ... ..	0.005	...	...	...	0.000
Iron ... ..	Less than 0.02	...	...	...	Nil
Other metals ... ..	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free carbon dioxide ... ..	35	...	...	...	35
Total Dissolved Solids, dried at 180°C. ... ..	345	...	...	...	345
Alkalinity ... ..	255	...	...	...	255
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 27°C.) ... ..	0.05	...	...	...	0.00
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	0.3
Fluoride ... ..	—	...	...	...	Less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>					
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in:—					
1 day at 37°C. ... ..	1	...	...	...	0
2 days at 37°C. ... ..	1	...	...	...	0
3 days at 22°C. ... ..	2	...	...	...	1
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>					
Present in ... ..	—	...	...	...	—
Absent from ... ..	100 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>					
Present in ... ..	—	...	...	...	—
Absent from ... ..	100 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.

During the 9 months April 1st to December 31st, 1960, the quantity of water supplied in the area of the former Reading Corporation was 2,079 million gallons. This figure includes the areas beyond the Borough Boundary formerly supplied by the Reading Undertaking.

The number of dwelling houses in the Borough, together with other premises having domestic occupation, supplied was 35,843 at March 31st, 1960. The supply to 5 of these properties was by means of standpipes. My records show that there are 16 houses within the Borough supplied from wells, and taking no supply from the Board's mains.



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. J. Green, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:—

The 5-year slum clearance programme was completed by the end of the year and a further list of unfit houses to be dealt with in the subsequent five years was prepared for consideration by the Housing Committee. More survey work on houses at present outside our immediate ambit of slum clearance is very necessary. It would assist the Council in their plans for redevelopment and also in assessing the future needs of people likely to be displaced from unfit properties in the next ten years or so.

It is clear from the Government White Paper on Housing issued in February, that more effective legislation is to be provided for dealing with houses let-in-lodgings, both from the point of view of necessary facilities and management. This, together with the idea of providing subsidy towards the rehousing of people living in overcrowded conditions, should enable us to bring about a greater improvement in the lodgings situation.

It is intended also to streamline the procedure for securing the repair of unfit property. The use of the repairs section of the Rent Act 1957 appears to be slowing down—whether this is due to a more satisfactory level of maintenance or whether it is the result of a certain degree of apathy amongst tenants of houses, is difficult to say. Only a system of house-to-house inspection can give an answer to this question. We have not, of course, the resources for a great deal of this detailed work, but it will be undertaken as far as the situation permits.

Throughput at the Abattoirs again showed an increase of slaughtering units dealt with during the year. There is a further marked decline in the average incidence of Tuberculosis in cattle slaughtered at the abattoirs, although infection in animals from Ireland was found to be relatively high.

The staff position has kept up fairly well. It is still difficult however to recruit Public Health Inspectors and Students.

I am much indebted to the staff for their continued support and to them I extend my very best thanks.

## 1 HOUSING

### Slum Clearance

During 1960, representations were made in respect of 136 houses and the Slum Clearance programme, comprising 499 houses to be dealt with during the period 1956/1960, was thereby completed.

Over the five years, 189 houses were included in 25 Clearance Areas, 187 houses were dealt with by individual procedure, 82 houses acquired by the Local Authority were Certified Unfit and 42 of the houses included in the programme were voluntarily closed or demolished by the owners without the need for formal action. The majority of the Orders made in respect of Clearance Areas went through unopposed—only in 4 cases was it necessary for a Public Inquiry or Hearing to be arranged and at the time of writing this report, all except one of the Orders made during the programme had been confirmed by the Minister of Housing & Local Government. Of all the houses dealt with during the programme, only 5 were made fit and brought back into use. By the end of 1960, 202 houses had been demolished and 187 were closed or awaiting demolition—the remaining 106 houses were occupied, pending completion of the necessary procedure.

During the year the Local Authority was requested by the Minister of Housing & Local Government to submit further proposals in respect of Slum Clearance. Accordingly, a programme of 649 houses to be dealt with during the five year period 1961/1965 was submitted and approved.



It was suggested in last year's annual report that the new programme total was likely to be higher than that of the first programme. This is now apparent and the survey work undertaken during 1960 in connection with this new programme, also revealed that slum clearance will be with us for a good many years hence. There are many more houses in the town which, by reason of age and deterioration, bad construction and lack of modern amenities, are not suitable for extensive repair and improvement, and in respect of which future clearance is inevitable.

### Clearance Areas

The following representations were made during the year by the Medical Officer of Health:—

- Clearance Area No. 1/60 (Hosier Street)—comprising 5 houses
- Clearance Area No. 2/60 (Awbrey Terrace)—comprising 4 houses
- Clearance Area No. 3/60 (Awbrey Place)—comprising 10 houses
- Clearance Area No. 4/60 (Kennet Side)—comprising 8 houses
- Clearance Area No. 5/60 (Bembridge Place)—comprising 8 houses
- Clearance Area No. 6/60 (Kennet Side)—comprising 7 houses
- Clearance Area No. 7/60 (Kennet Street)—comprising 12 houses
- Clearance Area No. 8/60 (Rupert Court)—comprising 15 houses
- Clearance Area No. 9/60 (Garrard Street)—comprising 10 houses

Clearance Orders were made in respect of Clearance Areas Nos. 5/60, 6/60 and 7/60 and Compulsory Purchase Orders were made in the case of the remainder. By the end of the year, all the Orders had been confirmed by the Minister of Housing & Local Government with the exception of those made in respect of Clearance Areas Nos. 1/60, 6/60, 8/60 and 9/60. An objection was lodged against the Compulsory Order made in respect of Clearance Area No. 1/60 (Hosier Street) and a Public Local Inquiry was held.

A Public Local Inquiry was also held in connection with the Compulsory Purchase Order made during 1959 in respect of Clearance Areas No. 3/59 (Lavender Street and Soho Street), No. 4/59 (Lavender Street and Hope Street), and No. 5/59 (Hosier Street), where several objections had been lodged. This Order was later confirmed by the Minister, and the Compulsory Purchase Order made during 1959 in the case of Clearance Area No. 1/59 (Soho Street) was also confirmed during the year.

The following houses were demolished during the year:—

Nos. 1/13 Howard Place—subject to a compulsory Purchase Order made during 1958.

Nos. 174/192 Southampton Street—subject to a Clearance Order made during 1959.

### Individual Unfit Houses

The undermentioned houses were represented during the year by the Medical Officer of Health as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of repair at reasonable expense:—

1 Back Road; 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 Blagrove Cottages; 2c Bridge Street (Caversham); 95 Castle Street; 121 Chatham Street; 2, 3 and 4 Coley Kiln Cottages; 36, 38 and 40 Kennet Side; 143 King's Road (Reading); 63, 65, 67, 69 and 71 Lower Thorn Street; 53 and 55 Mount Street; 10 and 12 Paddock Road; 73 Rupert Street; 16 and 18 Whitley Street.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of Blagrove Cottages and the houses in Lower Thorn Street and Paddock Road. Closing Orders were made in respect of the remainder of the houses with the exception of Nos. 53 and 55 Mount Street where the owner intimated his intention to make an offer of works.



The following houses, owned by the Local Authority, were certified unfit:—

35 Coley Place; 41 and 43 Hosier Street; 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 Thorn Street; 3, 5 and 10 Wine Place.

The undermentioned houses, previously represented or certified unfit, were demolished during the year:—

2, 4, 6 and 8 Boarded Lane; 23, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39 and 41 Coley Place; 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 Finch Buildings; 4 Garrard Street; Grovelands Cottage, Dee Road; 63, 65, 67, 69 and 71 Lower Thorn Street; 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 Mount Pleasant Grove; 29 St. Michael's Road (previously Church Road); 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24 Seamer Place; 23/25 and 27 Silver Street; 17, 19, 21 and 23 Sun Street.

The Demolition Order made in 1955 but later suspended, in respect of No. 216, Whitley Wood Lane, was revoked this year, the house having been made fit for human habitation following the execution of extensive repairs and improvements by the owner.

### Closure of Parts of Buildings

The following parts of buildings, found to be unfit for human habitation, were represented by the Medical Officer of Health under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957, and in each case a Closing Order was made:—

1, 4, 5 and 11 Beaconsfield Buildings; Basement Flat, 25 Castle Crescent; and Basement Flat, 132 Oxford Road.

### Houses Let-in-Lodgings

Whilst it was not found possible to continue with further intensive survey work in this sphere during 1960, a considerable amount of time was devoted to dealing with unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in the houses let-in-lodgings so far discovered.

Known cases were submitted to the Planning Committee for their observation and then considered and assessed with regard to overcrowding and the provision of essential facilities. Where necessary, an informal notice was served upon the person in control, stipulating permitted numbers for the various rooms on the premises and/or specifying the additional facilities required to bring the premises up to standard. At this stage, the person in control was invited to call in and discuss the matter. Where the informal notice brought no response, the case was reported to the Housing Committee and the appropriate formal notice was served, either under Section 90 or Section 36 of the Housing Act, 1957.

A lot of thought was given to the question of standards. Because of the widely differing circumstances in the various premises it was found difficult to apply a precise yardstick to every case. Where lettings consisted of two or more rooms, it was thought reasonable to make use of Tables I and II of the 6th Schedule of the Housing Act, 1957, in fixing permitted numbers, but where lettings were in the form of single bed-sitting rooms, it was felt that a higher floor area standard should be applied in consideration of the fact that such rooms are not normally used exclusively for sleeping purposes. Whilst it was not possible to fix a definite standard which would allow for every variation in circumstances, the following form of assessment was found to apply satisfactorily in most cases:—

(a) <i>Bed-sitting rooms—also containing facilities (i.e. cooker and/or sink)</i>					
240 sq. ft. and above	.	.	.	.	2 persons
100/240 sq. ft.	.	.	.	.	1 person
Less than 100 sq. ft.	.	.	.	.	1 person under 10 years of age



- (b) *Bed-sitting rooms—with facilities elsewhere than in the rooms*
- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 180 sq. ft. and above . . . . . | 2 persons                      |
| 90/180 sq. ft. . . . .          | 1 person                       |
| Less than 90 sq. ft. . . . .    | 1 person under 10 years of age |
- (c) *Bed-sitting rooms—with facilities elsewhere than in the rooms and where, in addition, a communal living room or dining room is provided*
- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 160 sq. ft. and above . . . . . | 2 persons                      |
| 80/160 sq. ft. . . . .          | 1 person                       |
| Less than 80 sq. ft. . . . .    | 1 person under 10 years of age |

The purpose of specifying one person under 10 years of age in the above standard was to imply that a small room, whilst unsuitable for use as a bed-sitting room, could be used as a child's bedroom. Rooms of less than 50 sq. ft. and rooms used specifically as living rooms, kitchens, sculleries, etc., were discounted for sleeping purposes.

Facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water were required to be provided on the general basis of one set of facilities for each family, or one set for every four or five single lodgers where it was established that the use of such facilities would be rather limited, for example, where the lodgers were out at work all day. Sanitary conveniences were required on the basis of one to every two families or four single persons.

The results produced by the action taken have proved interesting and it would be true to say that some improvement has been achieved without too drastic an effect upon either the persons in control or the occupants. Many of the persons to whom informal notices were sent, responded by coming in to discuss the matter and subsequently effecting rearrangements or improvements conceived more easily during discussion than by letter or notice. In some instances, entire premises have been vacated and either let on a different basis or put to some other use, but in most cases only the overcrowded lettings have been disturbed, some being required to find accommodation elsewhere and some being given additional rooms in the same premises. Some of the displaced families have been rehoused by the Local Authority. In a number of instances, the requirement to provide additional facilities has resulted in the person in control adopting the less expensive alternative of reducing the number of lettings, but in some cases the required facilities have been provided and in others the persons in control have compromised by both effecting reductions in numbers and providing some extra facilities.

Also worthy of mention is the fact that nearly half of the houses let-in-lodgings dealt with in this way were mainly occupied by coloured families and that in this respect no particular difficulty was experienced.

The results have so far been fairly encouraging and show that this problem can be tackled even with present legislation provided there is real understanding and a desire to help on the part of landlords, tenants and the local authority. According to the White Paper on Housing, consideration is being given to new housing legislation in which it is proposed to strengthen the power of local authorities and to provide financial assistance in the form of subsidy where rehousing is necessary on the grounds of overcrowding. There is no doubt that the crux of the matter is the scarcity of more suitable housing accommodation.

### Certificates of Disrepair

During 1960, 17 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, compared with 42 in 1959, and 137 during 1958. Of these 17 applications, two were not granted and the remainder were approved for the issue of Certificates, 5 in respect of all the items specified by the Tenants, and 10 in respect of some of the defects.



Following the Local Authority's notice of intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair, undertakings were received from Landlords in 11 instances, and in one instance from a house inspected in 1959, and the Certificates were not therefore issued. Eight applications were received for the cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair issued under the Rent Act, 1957, and two issued under the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954. In 5 cases under the 1957 Act and both under the 1954 Act, all the defects had been satisfactorily remedied, and the Certificates were cancelled.

Two applications were received for Certificates as to the remedying of defects undertaken to be remedied by the Landlord. One from a tenant was granted but one application from a landlord had not been completed satisfactorily and the Certificate was not granted.

## Repair of Houses

Many of the complaints received by the Department were in respect of housing defects. The number is approximately the same as last year. Some 304 dwellinghouses were inspected during the year following complaints and 152 preliminary notices were served. There were 1,671 inspections for the purpose of supervising works in progress, interviewing owners and builders and generally securing compliance with the notices served. Property owners responded well to informal notices, although it was necessary to serve statutory notices in 75 cases. One hundred and thirty-nine houses were made fit during the year by owners.

## Information re Local Land Charges, etc.

Information relating to dwellinghouses as regards outstanding notices and their position with respect to slum clearance was supplied in many cases; upon request for official search of the Land Charges Register—some 2,588 forms were dealt with during the year. Details of properties were also supplied in connection with mortgages being arranged under the Housing Act, 1949, with respect to the purchase of small dwellings

## Overcrowding

The Housing Committee accepted overcrowding standards recommended by the Medical Officer of Health. We have found in the past that even though the houses may not be statutorily overcrowded, families have been living in difficult conditions. The new standards should be of considerable help in these cases. The standard is as follows:

“A house shall be deemed to be overcrowded if two persons of different sexes, who are over the age of 10 and are not living together as husband and wife, sleep in the same room,

or

where bedrooms exceed the following degrees of occupation:—

(a)	110 sq. ft. or more	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
(b)	90–110 sq. ft.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1½
(c)	70–90 sq. ft.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
(d)	50–70 sq. ft. (i.e. one child under 10)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	½
(e)	Under 50 sq. ft.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nil

In dealing with these numbers, no account shall be taken of a child under one year old. A house is automatically overcrowded if a living room is used for sleeping purposes”.

Many complaints of overcrowding were investigated and appropriate recommendations were made to the Housing Department.

## A Summary of Housing Repair Work under the Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of inspections for the purpose of the Housing Consolidated Regulations . . . . .	129
Number of general inspections . . . . .	3,750
Number of Preliminary Notices served . . . . .	146
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with . . . . .	139
Number of Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act . . . . .	95
Number of Statutory Notices (Public Health Act) complied with by Owners . . . . .	95
Number of Houses made fit . . . . .	139

## 2 FOOD ADMINISTRATION

Details of the work of the department in respect of food administration have been dealt with under the usual sub-headings, as follows:—

- (a) Slaughterhouses and Inspection of Meat
- (b) Unwholesome Food Condemned
- (c) Milk
- (d) Food Handling
- (e) Sampling, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

### (a) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT

The Report required by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, was submitted to the Minister and was confirmed towards the end of the year. The effect of the Report is that all the slaughterhouses in the town are required to comply with the Slaughterhouses Construction (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughterhouses Construction (Cruelty to Animals) Regulations on December 31st, 1961, the appointed day being January 1st, 1962. The old concept of slaughter being carried on in a great number of small slaughtering establishments, went out with the adoption of the Government's post-war plan for slaughterhouses. It has taken a number of years to implement the policy which tends towards moderate concentration, but the slaughterhouse situation today is undoubtedly better than ever it was. New standards of construction, lighting, lairaging, prevention of cruelty, and amenities for slaughtermen have been introduced and should contribute very considerably not only to clean and safe meat but to the better marketable condition of meat as delivered to the retail shop.

The number of slaughtering establishments in the town was reduced from four to three during the year, the proprietor of a small slaughterhouse on the outskirts of the town not considering it worthwhile to carry out the extensive improvements that were required under the new Act. At the Abattoirs, the Estates Committee has considered the implications of the new Regulations and a considerable amount of maintenance and other works are to be done. The general arrangements for refrigeration were reviewed during the year and certain alterations were carried out and considerable economy achieved in the use of water. Improvements to the cooling rooms are proposed also to meet the demand for low-temperature fresh meat. This is required in the meat manufacturing trade where increasing attention is being given to the bacterial quality of meat. Among the various factors concerned with bacterial activity in meat, probably the one most easily controlled is that of temperature. At least one large manufacturer is demanding meat at a temperature below 40° F. and improved refrigeration is likely to be required more and more. It is intended to install at the Abattoirs a water pressure unit to enable cleaning down to be done more readily and also for the purpose of cleansing carcasses without the use of wiping cloths. Some progress was made in the sinking of the Well on the premises. Trial pumpings which were carried out showed that a fair rate of supply could be expected, but the Well was not completed by the end of the year.



## **Meat for Export**

A fair proportion of the meat slaughtered at the Abattoirs is still intended for export beyond the Reading and district supply area and something like two-thirds of the kill is surplus to Reading—some of it is being supplied to France and Italy. Whilst the total throughput creates a considerable amount of work for the meat inspectors, it does contribute to the economical working of the Abattoirs.

## **Casualty Animals**

The figures for animals sent in for emergency slaughter because of injury or illness were similar to those of last year. On one occasion, several pigs were sent in for slaughter which had been badly mauled and savaged by dogs. The facts of this case were reported with a view to action under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I would like once again to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the advice the Corporation received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, particularly from Mr. R. M. Loosmore, the Veterinary Investigation Officer and his staff, who have been most helpful in the examination of specimens we have submitted from time to time.

The position with regard to casualty animals inspected during the year, is as follows:—

Cows 130; Heifers and Steers 5; Bulls 5; Sheep 35; Calves 3; Pigs 219.

The figures for pigs and cows are a little more than for last year, but there does not appear to be any special reason why this should be so.

## **Meat Inspection**

The number of units inspected by the meat inspectors in the town during the year again shows a record figure, there being 76,330 as against 75,594 last year. The figures for cattle, calves and pigs were up whilst the number of sheep and lambs was down. A proportion of the cattle were of Irish origin and further reference is made to these in the section on Tuberculosis. Meat inspection details are also dealt with separately in the succeeding paragraphs and the amount of meat slaughtered and inspected is shown in graphical form on page 92. The meat inspection arrangements worked fairly satisfactorily again this year, despite the fact that it was required to continue on Saturdays and Sundays. It will no doubt be appreciated that it is necessary to use all the qualified inspectors on the staff from time to time, all of whom take part in a rota system for overtime meat inspection.

## **Ministry Grants for Meat Inspection**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food continued their scheme for reimbursing those Authorities who have an unduly heavy burden of meat inspection. The reimbursement figure for Reading for the financial year 1959/60 was a little over £1,770, which represents approximately 50% of the value of meat inspection work done over and above that required for the needs of the County Borough. This is some compensation for the extra inspection done by the Corporation's officers, but does not, of course, cover the whole of the cost. The reimbursement scheme is stated to be a temporary arrangement. It remains to be seen what the Ministry have in mind as a permanent measure.

## **Tuberculosis**

It is considered of interest to continue the table of figures showing the incidence of Tuberculosis in various types of animals. The T.B. Eradication Scheme came into operation in February, 1957, and has therefore been operating for nearly four years. The figures in the tables below indicate to a large extent just how successful the



scheme has been. In cattle, the incidence of Tuberculosis has declined from 12.04% of animals slaughtered to 0.89% last year. In cows, the effect is even more striking—from 49.85% in 1948, the figure becomes 0.114% in 1960. In calves the disease is virtually non-existent, and the picture is similar in pigs. The incidence in cattle, excluding cows, it will be noted, is slightly above that for 1959. It should be pointed out however that among these were some 102 infected Irish cattle out of a total of 1283 of Irish origin that were sent to the abattoirs for slaughter. Excluding the Irish imports, therefore, the percentage of incidence of Tuberculosis in cattle inspected at the abattoirs is only 0.183%. The percentage of incidence in the Irish cattle slaughtered at the abattoirs was 7.95%.

The question of non-attested cattle being allowed into the country from Ireland has been raised in Reading and at national level by the Farmers' Union. It is their view that these imports constitute a danger of infection to herds in this country and on these grounds, it has been contended that non-attested cattle should not be allowed to be imported. This obviously is a matter of high policy and no doubt it will be borne in mind when the whole question of imports from Ireland is next considered.

Year	Cattle (excluding cows)		Cows		Calves		Pigs	
	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected
1948	3,687	12.04	1,631	49.85	4,297	—	10,235	3.89
1953	23,733	5.52	2,969	23.95	7,586	—	38,949	1.16
1954	22,398	6.47	3,231	18.67	11,185	0.0045	50,180	1.31
1955	9,300	4.45	11,857	15.74	16,396	0.24	69,499	0.72
1956	12,873	3.58	18,350	20.39	23,736	0.06	57,885	0.76
1957	15,936	3.28	17,864	18.04	20,659	0.009	57,316	0.51
1958	11,284	3.34	23,971	10.92	13,253	0.015	57,452	0.33
1959	12,271	0.44	13,316	2.64	14,863	0.013	65,797	0.170
1960	13,812	0.898	13,988	0.114	23,073	—	62,089	0.098

### Cysticercus Bovis

The number of carcasses found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* during the year was 13 compared with 24 last year. There were no generalised cases. In 6 cases carcasses were refrigerated as recommended in Memo 3 (Meat) before being passed as fit for human consumption.

In addition to the incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* found locally, a number of infected carcasses were sent in from local authorities outside for refrigeration for the prescribed period. We are notified by the public health inspector of the appropriate authority of the time and place at which the carcass will be treated and we arrange for surveillance of the carcass. A clearance certificate is issued when treatment is complete.

### Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894 to 1950

Inspectors who are qualified in meat inspection are authorised officers for the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts and are responsible for ensuring the proper disposal of diseased carcasses and for the disinfection of infected premises. The only case reported was one of fowl pest in the Whitley area. The destruction of slaughtered birds was supervised and the necessary disinfection carried out.

### Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

A total of 46 licences to slaughter animals under the provisions of the above Acts were issued during the year. Both the captive bolt pistol and the electric lethaler are used at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses, and no infringements of the Acts were reported. A number of conditional licences were issued during the year, i.e. to people

who are required to work under the supervision of a fully licensed slaughterman. It is now the practice to test the applicant on his knowledge of the various legal provisions relating to his work. His slaughtering ability is observed for some time before a full licence is issued.

## Condemned Meat

Condemned meat is now disposed of in accordance with the Meat (Staining & Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960. This has increased the measure of control over condemned material. The complete answer, of course, is the treatment of meat condemned in suitable plant installed at the slaughterhouses themselves. We have one such plant attached to the bacon factory. It reduces the handling of infected material and affords the best possible practical means of control.

Some 86 $\frac{1}{4}$  tons of meat were condemned during the year at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses. The table below sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with the details of condemnations, and is in the form required by the Ministry.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ..	13,812	13,988	23,073	45,721	62,089	Nil
Number inspected ... ..	13,812	13,988	23,073	45,721	62,089	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses con- demned ... ..	10	149	118	157	56	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	3,318	9,036	12	2,131	9,998	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	24.095	65.663	0.562	5.0	16.193	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	121	15	Nil	Nil	61	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	0.898	0.114	Nil	Nil	0.098	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	13	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



## Diseased Meat and Offals

The following tables give details of the meat and offals found during the year to be diseased, unsound or unfit for human consumption.

### Whole Carcasses

	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Boars and Sows	Sheep
Tuberculosis . . . . .	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Abnormal Odour . . . . .	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bruising and Injuries . . . . .	1	4	—	—	2	—	1
Dead in lairage . . . . .	—	—	—	12	10	—	1
Erysipelas, Acute Swine . . . . .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Ill-bled . . . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Immaturity . . . . .	—	—	—	11	—	—	1
Jaundice . . . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Johnes Disease . . . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lymphatic Leukaemia . . . . .	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm . . . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema and/or Emaciation . . . . .	1	114	1	61	6	—	149
Omphalophlebitis . . . . .	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Pyæmia . . . . .	—	—	—	2	9	—	1
Pyrexia . . . . .	—	—	—	4	5	—	—
All Septicaemia conditions . . . . .	5	27	—	21	16	6	4
	12	150	1	118	49	7	157

### Part Carcasses

	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Boars and Sows	Sheep
Tuberculosis . . . . .	20	—	—	—	2	—	—
Arthritis . . . . .	—	—	—	—	28	—	—
Bruising and/or Injuries . . . . .	—	3	—	2	19	—	4
Abscess (localised) . . . . .	—	—	—	1	22	—	1
Erythema . . . . .	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Malformation . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	20	3	—	3	73	—	6



## Organs, etc.

*Heads and Tongues*

Tuberculosis . . . .	114
Abscess . . . .	44
Actinomycosis . . . .	57
Cysticercus Bovis . . . .	13

*Livers*

Tuberculosis . . . .	11
Abscess . . . .	282
Angioma . . . .	1,217
Cirrhosis . . . .	1,743
Cysts (Echinococcus) . . . .	73
Fatty Degeneration . . . .	86
Distomatosis . . . .	10,427
Milkspot . . . .	1,876
Necrosis . . . .	346

*Part Livers*

Distomatosis . . . .	980
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*Skirts*

Cysticercus Bovis . . . .	1
Peritonitis . . . .	1

*Lungs*

Tuberculosis . . . .	109
Abscess . . . .	46
Congestion . . . .	1,129
Cysts (Echinococcus) . . . .	96
Distomatosis . . . .	205
Emphysema . . . .	10
Parasites . . . .	195
Pleurisy . . . .	1,682
Pneumonia . . . .	2,080

*Stomachs*

Peritonitis . . . .	176
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*Hearts*

Pericarditis . . . .	1,717
Cysticercus Bovis . . . .	2

*Kidneys*

Cysts . . . .	637
Nephritis . . . .	1,012

*Intestines*

Johnes Disease . . . .	4
Peritonitis . . . .	204

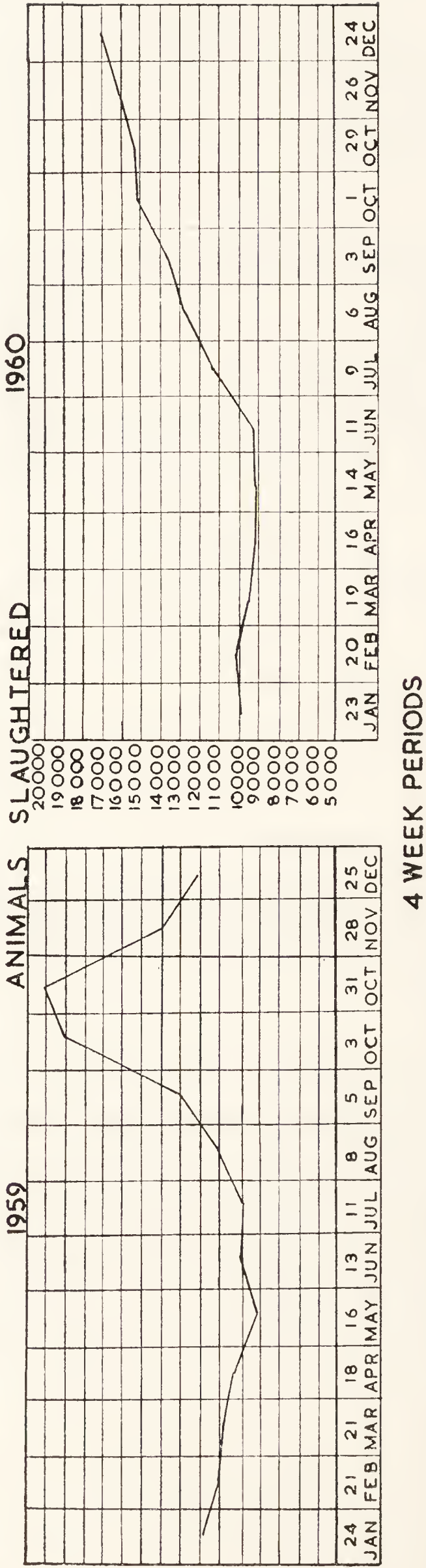
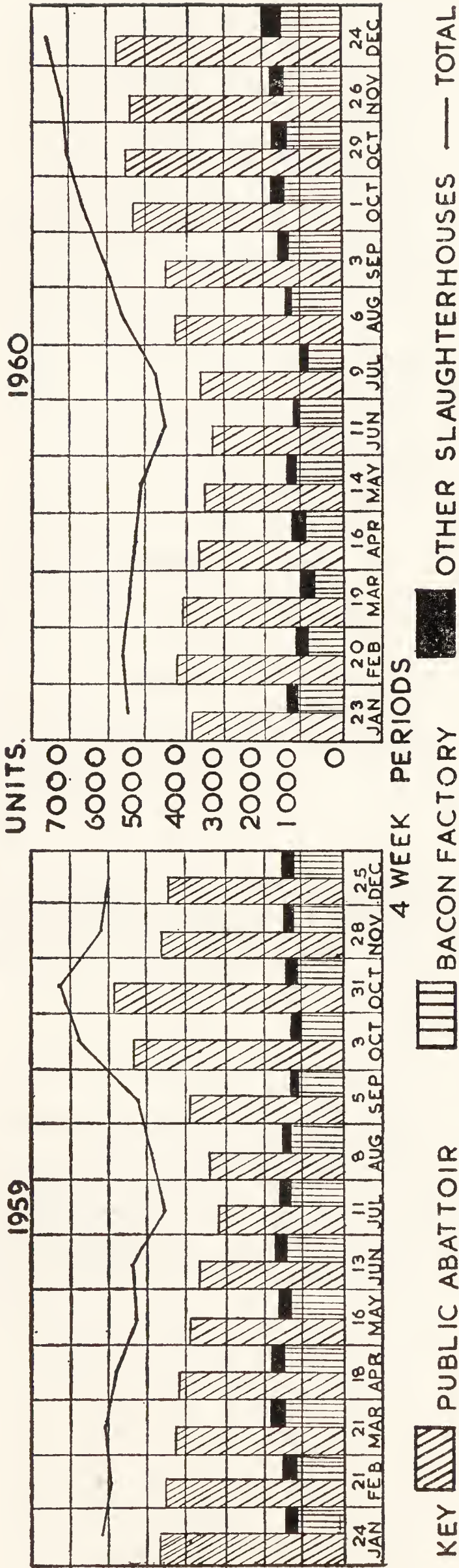
**Transport of Meat**

Fairly frequent inspections were made by inspectors at the slaughterhouses and as meat was being delivered to retail shops in the town, and a reasonably satisfactory standard was maintained. A number of minor infringements were dealt with informally.

**Knacker's Yard**

There is one Knacker's Yard in the Borough which is subject to annual licensing by the Council. These premises were reconstructed during 1955 and are of a good standard. The register kept in accordance with the Knacker's Yard Orders shows that 111 bovine and 26 equine cases were dealt with on the premises during the year. No complaints were received in respect of this establishment and it was carried on satisfactorily during the year. The public health inspectors made 50 visits to the premises during 1960.

MEAT INSPECTION.





*(b) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED*

Some 444 visits were made to food establishments during the year for the purpose of inspecting foodstuffs and condemning that which was unfit for human consumption. Approximately  $19\frac{1}{4}$  tons of food were condemned and 1,273 certificates issued to the traders concerned. The figure for cooked ham, bacon and gammon is still high. The amount condemned must almost certainly be reflected in the retail price of the commodity in the shops. The Ministry have been furnished with figures for condemned ham, etc., in the past with a view to some formal action being taken. One large consignment of dried fruit accounted for most of the dried fruit condemned. This was found to be infested with insect larvæ so badly that it had to be totally condemned. The main difficulty with meat, sausages and sausage meat was decomposition arising from improper storage. Details of the food condemned are given below:—

Bacon, Gammon Ham etc. . . . .	3,978 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Cake . . . . .	8 lb.
Cheese . . . . .	233 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Chicken . . . . .	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Corned Beef . . . . .	912 lb.
Cream . . . . .	6 gallons
Dried Fruit . . . . .	6,414 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Fish . . . . .	397 lb.
Flour . . . . .	38 lb.
Fruit pulp . . . . .	858 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Grouse . . . . .	14 brace
Ham and Tongue Roll . . . . .	1,655 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Hamburgers . . . . .	197 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Jam and Marmalade . . . . .	93 lb.
Jellied Veal . . . . .	108 lb.
Lard . . . . .	3 lb.
Luncheon Sausage and Meat . . . . .	386 lb.
Meat . . . . .	3,956 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Milk Powder . . . . .	32 lb.
Offal . . . . .	500 lb.
Peaches, fresh . . . . .	70 lb.
Pork Brawn . . . . .	177 lb.
Porkburgers . . . . .	53 lb.
Pork Pies . . . . .	136 $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen
Potatoes . . . . .	5,264 lb.
Prawns . . . . .	15 lb.
Rabbit . . . . .	60 lb.
Sauerkraut . . . . .	56 lb.
Sausages and Sausage meat . . . . .	4,914 lb.
Savoury and Onion Roll . . . . .	274 lb.
Tins, assorted . . . . .	4,195 tins
Vinegar . . . . .	12 pints

*(c) MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS*

Frequent visits were paid during the year to the dairy establishments in the town both for the purpose of milk sampling farm supplies at the time of delivery and also for general inspection. The dairy which, for some time, had been trading under difficulties due to restricted accommodation, was absorbed by a larger concern and the use of the establishment for processing was discontinued.

This means that we have only three processing plants in the town now; the Reading Co-operative Society Limited, 150 Oxford Road; Messrs. H. Williams & Son, 75 Oxford Road; and the Dairy Department of Reading University, the latter plant



of course is operated for demonstration purposes, but is available as a standby in the event of emergency. Two of these processing plants are of the H.T.S.T. pattern and one is of the Holder type.

The number of licences issues under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, is as follows:—

Plant licences for milk pasteurisation . . . . .	3
Dealers' Prepacked milk licences for sale of:—	
Pasteurised milk . . . . .	75
Tuberculin Tested milk . . . . .	5+12
	vending machines
Sterilised milk . . . . .	54

The 1960 Regulations are a consolidation of previous legislation and the old idea of issuing licences annually has now been replaced by quinquennial re-licensing. In addition, supplementary licences are no longer required. This will have the effect of reducing the administrative work to some extent. It is necessary, however, for premises to be re-licensed in the event of change of occupation.

The number of retailers selling milk as received from the dairies is much the same as last year and there was little change in the types of milk sold. The use of milk vending machines is increasing, partly due to no doubt to the increased publicity being given to milk. The fact that the milk is chilled in these machines will be an additional selling point, as well as the fact that it is available at all times of the day and night.

### Milk Receptacles

A series of bottle and churn rinses from the three pasteurising plants in the Borough, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The results indicated a satisfactory bacteriological standard associated with bottle washing and churn sterilising plants, colony counts being well within the provisional classified range.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of a complaint regarding the dirty condition of a milk bottle. The dairy concerned pleaded guilty and was fined £5.

### Samples: Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

The results of samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, are as follows:—

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples		
			Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised ...	236	Phosphatase	235	1	—
		Methylene Blue	232	3	1
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	297	Phosphatase	297	—	—
		Methylene Blue	281	15	1
Tuberculin Tested	63	Methylene Blue	54	9	—
Sterilised	62	Turbidity	62	—	—

All unsatisfactory samples were investigated and, where necessary, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and outside licensing authorities were informed.

## School Milk

Milk deliveries to the Council's Schools were checked during the year both under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and the Food & Drugs Act. The results of all samples taken were reported as satisfactory.

## Fresh Cream

With a view to obtaining information with regard to the bacteriological standard of fresh cream retailed locally, a series of samples were submitted during the year for examination by the Public Health Laboratory. The samples were obtained from establishments retailing cream confectionery and were taken at varying stages ranging from fresh cream as received at the bakery or shop, to cream confectionery offered for sale. The results obtained indicated that the greatest care is needed in the handling of this commodity if contamination is to be reduced to a minimum. Advice given resulted in an improvement in the finished product.

## Ice Cream

There was an increase in the number of dealers registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream this year compared with 1959. The number of Ice Cream manufacturers in the town remains the same, and in fact has been unchanged for five years now. The changing palates of people is reflected even in the sale of ice cream and emphasis is gradually changing from the production of hard ice cream to the soft cold-mix method. The latter type of product has developed to such an extent that there are now mobile soft ice cream factories operating, but not in Reading as yet.

Some 108 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the Methylene Blue Test, the results are as follows:—

Provisional Grade 1	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
Provisional Grade 2	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Provisional Grade 3	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Provisional Grade 4	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

These results are a still further improvement on those for the last few years, and reflect to some extent the improved methods of control and sterilisation by the Ice Cream trade.

Representations have been made to the Minister urging him to prescribe bacteriological standards of cleanliness for Ice Cream, but he is satisfied that no available bacteriological test is precise enough to be made statutory. The Minister recommends that local authorities should continue to look to the Methylene Blue test for a provisional measurement of the bacterial cleanliness of ice cream. The test affords a simple and valuable means for the routine grading of the product and has proved useful in indicating where further investigation is called for into the practices of manufacturers, distributors and retailers. It should be emphasised, however, that the examination of samples in the bacteriological laboratory is one only of several means of investigation which the health officer should apply in combination if he is fairly and usefully to judge whether the hygiene of manufacturing, distribution and handling techniques is satisfactory.

The following is the recommended provisional grading based on the methylene blue reduction test, in which readings are taken half-hourly:—

Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue
1	Fails to reduce in 4 hours
2	$2\frac{1}{2}$ —4 hours
3	$\frac{1}{2}$ —2 hours
4	0

The majority of samples from any one producer should fall into Grade 1 or 2. If too many samples fall into Grade 2, it is recommended that cultures should be made



to identify the prevalent organism, especially where first-hand knowledge of the firm's methods leads one to expect Grade 1 results.

### **Ice Cream Vehicles, Stalls, etc.**

The stalls erected in parks and playing fields when special exhibitions like the County Fair are held, are regularly inspected during the season. There is a most useful arrangement with the Borough Surveyor's Department whereby prospective stall-holders are required to contact this department with regard to the requirements that are likely to be laid down concerning the sale of ice cream. Inspection of stalls and vehicles operating in the town were carried out during the year; no unsatisfactory conditions were reported.

### *(d) FOOD HANDLING*

The year under review saw a further expansion in the practice of self-service in food shops. This means a reduction in the quantity of open food found in the shops themselves, a factor which undoubtedly contributes to improvement in hygienic standards. Apart from the fact that food on sale is not open to contamination, self-service premises tend to incorporate modern ideas on food storage in that racks and shelves are constructed of impervious material and are capable of being dismantled or removed easily to enable a more thorough cleansing of premises than might be possible where there are fixed counters and the like.

Of course, prepacking in itself does not guarantee a satisfactorily clean product. The conditions under which the food is prepared and prepacked are all important. Regular inspection of food premises, therefore, is as essential as ever, and during the year the Public Health Inspectors paid 4,171 visits to various premises in the town for this purpose. A fair amount of advice and, in some cases, warnings were given to occupiers of food premises in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Many of the multiple stores and private traders realise the importance in selling value of the good presentation of food and hygiene standards, and this in turn is responsible for the gradual improvements of standards generally.

A number of additional restaurants were opened in the town, mainly in adapted premises. A great deal of advice is given by Inspectors in respect of new food premises that are opened in addition to that concerned with improvements in existing premises.

### **Food Hygiene**

A number of lectures and film shows were given again this year by Public Health Inspectors. Whilst the response from food traders and food handlers was not as good as it might have been, it is useful work and helps to keep employers and staff informed of their obligations and encourages them to keep up and improve standards. Some of this work was done outside normal hours, mainly to youth groups and on one occasion to a parents' association.

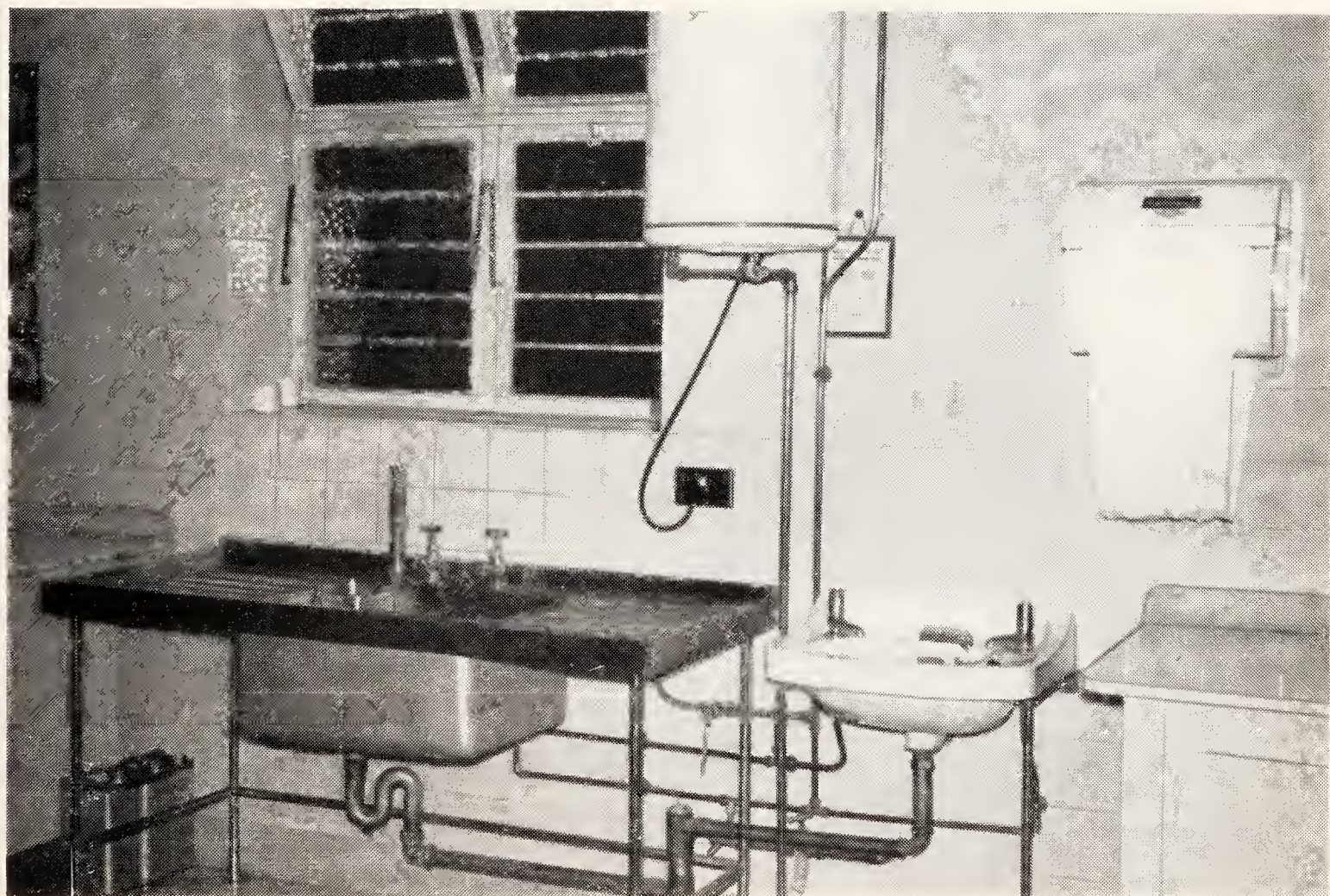
The example set by one of the large stores in the town in requesting customers to refrain from smoking, has not been followed by many others. Whilst there are particular additional reasons why food handlers should not smoke, if customers were to observe the rule of not smoking in food shops, it would contribute to the cause of food hygiene of which the public are becoming more and more conscious.

The Food Hygiene Regulations relating to food premises are constantly being enforced and traders have shown a good response to many requests for improvements. There was no occasion to institute proceedings in respect of unsatisfactory premises during the year.

### **Extraneous Matter in Food**

Several complaints were received during the year of extraneous matter being found in food. There has been a tendency for these complaints to increase over the years. Whether this is due to actual increase in cases, or whether to the fact that the



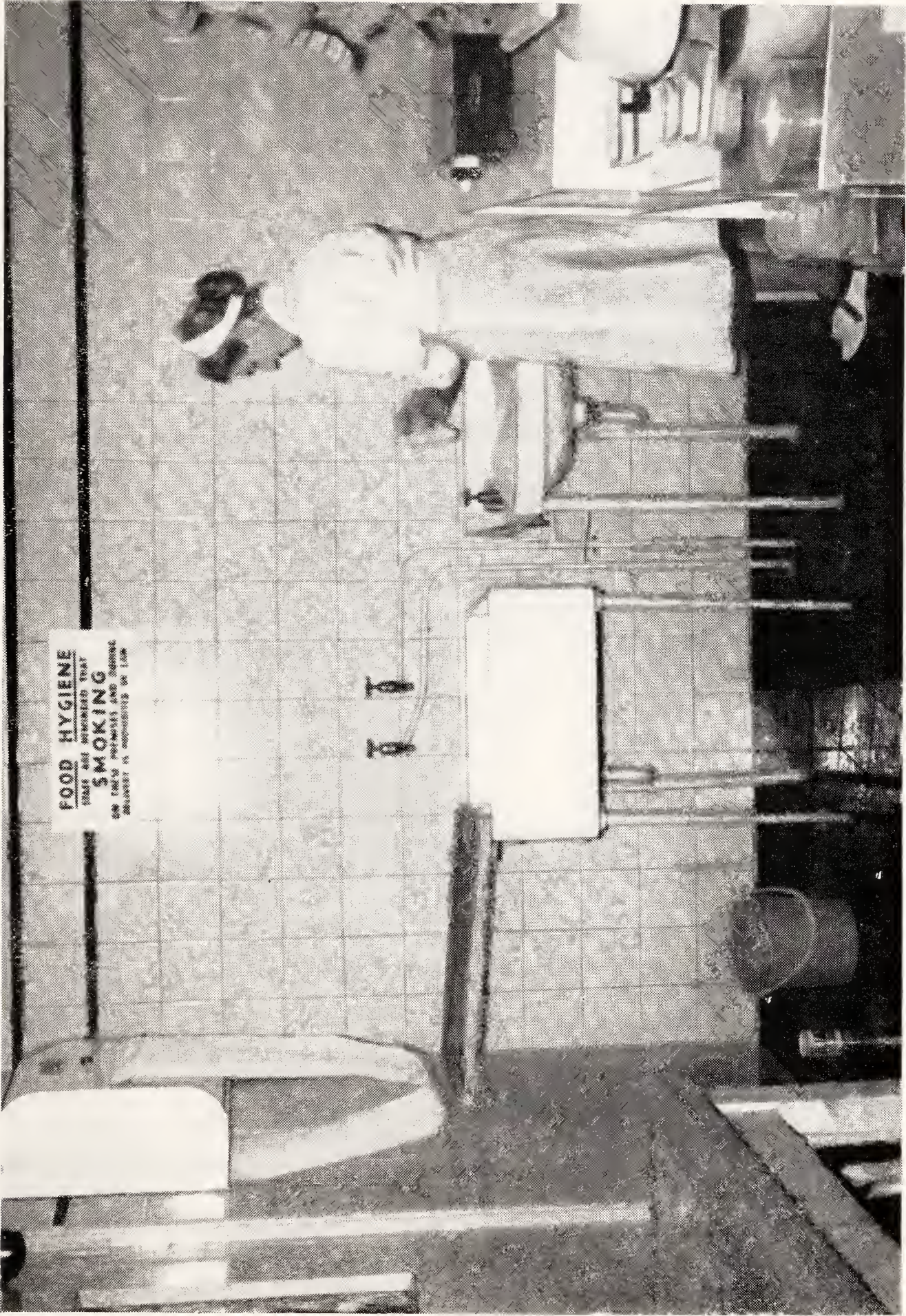


FOOD HYGIENE—Construction and Facilities









FOOD HYGIENE—Construction and Facilities







public intend to make their voice heard in these matters, it is difficult to say, but generally food traders are extremely concerned themselves at instances of this kind. Some faults are undoubtedly due indirectly to increases in mechanisation and these serve to show that advances in one direction need complementary supervision in another.

Several of the complaints were reported to the Health (General Services) Sub-Committee and in one instance, legal proceedings were instituted and the firm was fined £20.

Fortunately, most of the instances were isolated cases where remedial action was taken by the firm concerned and it was not considered justifiable to take formal action.

### Food Premises

In addition to ice cream premises, there are other establishments registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows:—

Fish Friers . . . . .	42
Sausage Manufacturers . . . . .	101
Pressed Meat Manufacturers . . . . .	52
Jam Manufacturers . . . . .	2
Potato Crisp Manufacturers . . . . .	1
Margarine Wholesale Stores . . . . .	4
	<hr/>
	202
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In addition to the previous table, there are 938 other food premises recorded to which 2,313 visits were paid. The number of premises arranged in the various classes, is as follows:—

Bakers Shops . . . . .	24
Butchers Shops — . . . . .	95
Cafés . . . . .	76
Cake Shops . . . . .	45
Dairies and Milk Shops . . . . .	12
Fish Shops . . . . .	34
Greengrocers Shops . . . . .	107
Grocers Shops . . . . .	373
Sweet Shops . . . . .	142
Wholesale Food Factories . . . . .	30
	<hr/>
	938
	<hr/>

### School Kitchens

Numerous visits were paid to these establishments, partly as a matter of routine and on occasion by request. These concerned fitness of food, the quality of meat supplied to kitchens, the standard of milk supplies and other relevant matters. The standard of premises and of food handling was quite good.

#### (e) SAMPLING, FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

Four hundred and twenty samples of food and drugs were submitted for examination during the year, compared with 416 last year. In 1960, 16 (6.06%) were reported to be not up to standard compared with 5 (1.73%) in 1959. Details of the samples procured and those found to be not up to standard, are shown in the table. Of the samples

obtained, 156 were of milk, and of these, 23 (14.74%) were below the prescribed standard. This compares with 29 (22.83%) out of a total of 127 samples of milk obtained last year. Of the 23 deficient milk samples, 19 were stated to be genuine but of poor quality. Comments have been made year by year on this matter of poor quality milk. It is interesting to note that during 1960 a report was issued by the Inter-departmental Committee on Milk Composition in the United Kingdom. The Committee was appointed in May, 1958, to consider the composition of milk sold off farms in the United Kingdom from the standpoint both of human nutrition and of animal husbandry, and to recommend any legislative or other changes that may be desirable.

The Committee made various recommendations, but it is not possible to give all these in full. So far as the legal means of controlling milk composition are concerned, the following recommendations are made:—

- (a) Consideration should be given to the adoption, within ten years, of a fixed minimum standard for whole milk of 8.5% solids-not-fat.
- (b) In the meantime, the presumptive minimum standard for solids-not-fat should be abolished when Ministers are satisfied that suitable marketing standards are in operation within the dairying industry to maintain and improve the solids-not-fat content of milk.
- (c) The presumptive minimum standard for fat should be continued for the present but replaced within five years by a fixed minimum standard for whole milk of 3%.
- (d) The fixed minimum standards should apply to milk only at the point of sale to the consumer.
- (e) The fixed minimum standards should not be applied to special grades of milk for which other standards may be necessary.
- (f) The evidence of the Hortvet test should, subject to certain provisos, be accepted in legal proceedings as proof of the presence or absence of added water in a milk sample.
- (g) Abstraction of fat from milk intended for sale as whole milk should be a specific legal offence.
- (h) A general statutory definition of milk should be introduced.

It is interesting to note that the Committee considers that nutritionally, the most valuable fraction in milk is the solids other than fat, whereas from the selling point of view, the “cream line” has been the primary factor.



## FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Almonds, Ground . . . . .	2	2	—
Anchovy Essence . . . . .	1	1	—
Asparagus . . . . .	2	1	1
Baked Beans . . . . .	1	1	—
Batter Flour Mixture . . . . .	5	5	—
Beefburgers . . . . .	1	1	—
Biscuits, Arrowroot . . . . .	1	1	—
Biskoids (Sweetening tablets) . . . . .	1	1	—
Bread Sauce . . . . .	1	1	—
Butter . . . . .	10	10	—
Butter Beans . . . . .	1	1	—
Cake Mix . . . . .	2	2	—
Cheese, grated . . . . .	1	1	—
Cheese Spread . . . . .	5	5	—
Chicklettes . . . . .	1	1	—
Chocolate Cake Coating . . . . .	2	2	—
Chocolate Drink . . . . .	1	1	—
Christmas Pudding . . . . .	3	3	—
Cockles . . . . .	1	1	—
Coconut, Desiccated . . . . .	1	1	—
Cream . . . . .	8	8	—
Cream-Double . . . . .	1	1	—
Cream-Sterilised . . . . .	1	1	—
Croquettes, Mock Salmon . . . . .	1	1	—
Curry Powder . . . . .	1	1	—
Custard Powder . . . . .	1	1	—
Fish Cakes . . . . .	3	3	—
Flour-Plain . . . . .	1	1	—
Flour-Self raising . . . . .	1	1	—
Flour-Soya . . . . .	1	1	—
Food Colouring-Chocolate brown . . . . .	1	1	—
Fresh Cream Confectionery . . . . .	2	2	—
Fruit-dried . . . . .	1	—	1
Fruit-tinned . . . . .	2	2	—
Fruit Juices, Squashes and Drinks . . . . .	8	8	—
Fruit Pie . . . . .	1	1	—
Gelatine . . . . .	1	1	—
Glace Cherries . . . . .	1	1	—
Glucose Syrup . . . . .	1	1	—
Golden Bread Crumbs . . . . .	1	—	1
Honey . . . . .	1	1	—
Ice Cream . . . . .	30	30	—
Ice Sorbet . . . . .	2	2	—
Jam . . . . .	5	5	—
Jelly-Table . . . . .	1	1	—
Lard . . . . .	7	6	1
Lemon Curd . . . . .	2	2	—
Lemon Juice-cloudy . . . . .	1	1	—
Margarine . . . . .	4	4	—
Mayonnaise . . . . .	1	1	—
Meringue Powder . . . . .	1	1	—
Milk . . . . .	156	152	4
Milk-Condensed Full Cream . . . . .	2	2	—
Milk-Condensed Machine Skimmed . . . . .	1	1	—
Milk Powder . . . . .	1	—	1
Milk Shake Syrup . . . . .	1	1	—
Minced Beef . . . . .	3	3	—
Minced Beef with Onion and Gravy . . . . .	1	1	—
Minced Beef with Mashed Potatoes . . . . .	1	—	1
Minced Chicken . . . . .	2	—	2
Minced Meat Loaf . . . . .	1	1	—
Mincemeat . . . . .	2	2	—

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Mushrooms with Savoury Macaroni . . .	1	1	—
Mutton Curry . . . . .	1	1	—
Paste—Fish and Meat . . . . .	6	6	—
Peas, Garden . . . . .	1	1	—
Peel—Mixed cut . . . . .	1	1	—
Pepper, ground white . . . . .	1	1	—
Pickles and Sauces . . . . .	17	16	1
Plum Pudding . . . . .	2	—	2
Pork Pie . . . . .	1	1	—
Potatoes . . . . .	4	4	—
Pudding Mix . . . . .	1	1	—
Puff Pastry Mix . . . . .	1	1	—
Rennet, Essence of . . . . .	1	1	—
Rice, long grain . . . . .	1	—	1
Rice, Ground . . . . .	1	1	—
Sausages—Beef . . . . .	12	11	1
Sausages—Pork . . . . .	12	10	2
Sausage Meat—Beef . . . . .	1	1	—
Sausage Meat—Pork . . . . .	1	1	—
Soft Drink Powders . . . . .	3	3	—
Soup . . . . .	4	4	—
Spaghetti with Tomato and Cheese Sauce . .	1	1	—
Spice and Herbs . . . . .	4	4	—
Sponge Pudding . . . . .	1	1	—
Steak and Kidney Pie . . . . .	3	2	1
Steak and Kidney Pudding . . . . .	3	3	—
Sugar, brown . . . . .	1	1	—
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery . . . . .	5	5	—
Tomatoes . . . . .	1	1	—
Vinegar—Cider . . . . .	1	1	—
Vinegar—Malt . . . . .	6	6	—
Vinegar—Tarragon . . . . .	1	1	—
Yogurt . . . . .	3	3	—
Gin . . . . .	1	1	—
Rum . . . . .	1	1	—
Sherry . . . . .	1	1	—
Whisky . . . . .	1	1	—
Codis Tablets . . . . .	1	1	—
Cough Linctus . . . . .	1	1	—
Halibut Liver Oil Capsules . . . . .	1	1	—
Kidney and Bladder Pills . . . . .	1	1	—
Milk of Magnesia . . . . .	1	1	—
Yeast Tablets . . . . .	1	1	—
	420	400	20



# ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE SAMPLES REPORTED AS ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD

No. of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
8	Rice	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Label amended by manufacturers
32	Pork Sausage	Informal	Contained 56% meat	Follow-up sample satisfactory
126	Dried Milk Powder (Imported)	Informal	Excess acidity	Matter taken up with New Zealand Agricultural Division
191	Golden Bread Crumbs	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Label amended by manufacturers
204	Steak & Kidney Pie	Informal	Contained 17.5% meat	Follow-up sample satisfactory
224	Milk	Formal	9.1% added water. Solids-not-fat 8.18%	} Legal proceedings Producer fined £10
225	Milk	Formal	7.02% added water. Solids-not-fat 8.20%	
244	Milk	Formal	2.6% deficient in fat	Appeal to cow
255	Pork Sausage	Informal	Preservative not declared	} Declaration of presence of preservatives now being shown
256	Beef Sausage	Informal	Preservative not declared	
291	Plum Pudding	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with manufacturers
299	Sultanas	Informal	Contaminated with traces of paint solvent	Aeration removed contamination
308	Minced Chicken	Informal	Contained only 92% chicken	Matter taken up with manufacturers
311	Minced Chicken	Informal	Contained only 93% chicken	Matter taken up with manufacturers
356	Milk (Flavoured)	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with manufacturers
363	Pickled Onions	Informal	Inferior	Stock withdrawn from sale
373	Asparagus Spears	Informal	Asparagus contained 100 p.p.m. of tin	Matter taken up with manufacturers
402	Lard	Informal	Presence of beef fat suspected	Further sample to be taken
413	Plum Pudding	Formal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with manufacturers
416	Minced Beef with mashed potatoes	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with manufacturers

The following samples of milk were found to be genuine but of poor quality:—

Number of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Result of Analysis	
45	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.10%	Solids-not-fat 8.00%
87	Milk	Formal	Fat 4.00%	Solids-not-fat 8.20%
113	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.90%	Solids-not-fat 8.45%
123	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.80%	Solids-not-fat 8.15%
124	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.70%	Solids-not-fat 8.10%
130	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.50%	Solids-not-fat 8.25%
146	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.10%	Solids-not-fat 8.10%
147	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.30%	Solids-not-fat 8.40%
148	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.00%	Solids-not-fat 8.40%
161	Milk	Formal	Fat 1.90%	Solids-not-fat 8.50%
162	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.80%	Solids-not-fat 8.65%
165	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.80%	Solids-not-fat 9.10%
169	Milk	Formal	Fat 1.60%	Solids-not-fat 8.20%
170	Milk	Formal	Fat 1.70%	Solids-not-fat 8.60%
171	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.10%	Solids-not-fat 8.45%
172	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.50%	Solids-not-fat 8.65%
173	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.10%	Solids-not-fat 8.65%
174	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.20%	Solids-not-fat 8.45%
175	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.60%	Solids-not-fat 8.45%

## **Legal Proceedings**

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of 2 samples of milk; the producer was fined £10.

## **Labelling of Food, etc.**

The attention of several manufacturers was drawn to infringements, and appropriate amendments were made to labels.

## **Merchandise Marks Act**

The marking of imported foodstuffs exposed for sale is regularly checked by Inspectors when visiting food premises. Two hundred and nine visits were paid for this purpose and warnings were given where necessary. It was found that the Act was generally well observed and informal action is all that is usually required.

# **3 ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION**

The Minister has expressed his desire that, whether or not a town happens to be in a "black" area, work under the Clean Air Act should proceed so far as circumstances permit. Reading has made reasonable progress with the Clean Air Act and it is again pleasing to record the co-operation that has been received almost without exception from all those concerned.

The administration set up under the Clean Air Act seems to be developing its work. The Clean Air Council has been constituted for about four years and in the light of technological development in the "fuel burning installation" field, and experience especially in smoke control work, has led the Minister to make a number of modifications and amendments to existing legislation. New industrial development calls for a fair amount of attention both as regards the examination of plans and investigation of industrial processes; there is, too, the inspection of existing premises which are being surveyed in order to give us a reasonable picture of the types of installations in the town and the problems associated with them.

An increasing amount of technical information and advice is being made available by the National Coal Board and other producers of fuel, and we have found during the year under review that this has been most helpful.

## **Installation of New Furnaces and Chimney Heights**

Thirty-three formal notifications of intention to install industrial furnaces were received during the year. The trend towards oil fuel burning is reflected in the types of new installations, the majority of which were oil fired. These included one steam generator, a vertical steam boiler and twenty-nine sectional boilers. Only two boilers were intended for use with solid fuel, these being a vertical type steam boiler using low volatile steam coal, and a vertical steam boiler automatically fired with anthracite. There is no doubt that hand-firing is on its way out and such solid fuel burning appliances as are being installed, are usually fired with smokeless or low volatile fuel.

No plans or specifications were submitted for prior approval but all new installations were visited on completion and were found to comply with Section 3 of the Act. It is gratifying to see a growing interest in fuel efficiency and smokelessness which is reflected in the high standard of installation and degree of instrumentation employed.

Plans of factories, commercial and similar buildings were examined for the purpose of Section 10 of the Clean Air Act which relates to chimney heights. In twenty-four instances, the erection of chimneys was involved. In two of these cases discussions took place with architects or heating engineers which resulted in the proposed heights of the chimneys being increased to avoid nuisance. This need is emphasised by the trouble we have occasionally from existing chimneys where the height is not sufficient and remedial works have been necessary.



The introduction of legislation for the approval of chimney heights was opportune as many furnaces no longer depend on the chimney for producing the necessary draught—indeed some can operate satisfactorily without any chimney at all—but gases must be properly dispersed if nuisances or conditions prejudicial to health are to be avoided.

### Complaints and Observations

Thirty complaints were received during the year alleging nuisance from smoke, smuts, grit and fumes. During investigations and as a matter of routine, 266 observations on chimneys were carried out. In three cases, contraventions of Section 1 were noted and informal action was found to be sufficient to prevent a recurrence. In each case, contraventions were caused by faulty operation of the furnaces, a circumstance which emphasises the importance of engaging properly trained men for this work. The National Fuel Efficiency Service arrange courses both at the Reading Technical College and at the actual places where stokers are employed. Whilst a great deal of encouragement has been given to industry to train stokers in this way, it has not been as successful as would be desired.

In three cases, informal action was taken concerning nuisance from the indiscriminate burning of trade waste. It is of course desirable in the interests of clean air, that arrangements other than burning should be made for the disposal of rubbish of this kind, but where burning is unavoidable, there are improved types of incinerators at present on the market. It must be realised that the causing of nuisance merely because other means of disposal are inconvenient, cannot be permitted. However, there is increased interest in this question of the disposal of combustible trade waste and advice has been given on several occasions.

Considerable attention has been paid to the emission of smuts from chimneys of oil-fired boilers. This problem is recognised as being extremely complex and the Warren Springs Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has been carrying out investigations into causes and possible remedies. We have had a certain amount of trouble in Reading and whilst in the majority of cases it has been possible to remedy the conditions by improving combustion, it was felt desirable to consult with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research who have visited a number of plants in the town, carried out tests and will, in due course, give their observations.

Experience indicates that the higher the degree of efficiency achieved in fuel burning, the closer is the control that is necessary in order to maintain the level of efficiency. The need for proper and regular maintenance of all types of plant cannot be too strongly emphasised. We have had experience of this need in simple oil burning apparatus where the boiler has created considerable nuisance that could have been avoided by reasonable maintenance.

Close collaboration has been maintained during the year with the Alkali Works Inspector. There are a number of establishments in Reading subject to some degree of dual control and when difficulties have arisen, the Alkali Works Inspector has welcomed information from us. There has been much discussion on complaints that have been made regarding noxious effluvia from the Gas Works. Different processes have been involved at different times. Improvements have been achieved and steps taken to avoid a recurrence of the trouble. Unfortunately, effluvia from the chimney of the Segas plant (which converts oil to gas) is particularly noticeable, especially during inversion conditions. The Gas Board are anxious to see an end to this trouble and it is known that extensive works are being carried out in preparation for the change-over from heavy oil to naphtha. This is expected to be achieved early next year and it is hoped it will give some measure of improvement.

### Smoke Control Areas

Progress was made with the introduction of Smoke Control Areas in the town. The area in the centre of the town—Broad Street/Friar Street—came into operation



on June 1st, 1960, and five others were submitted to the Minister for informal approval. The position in Reading at the end of the year, therefore, was as follows:—

- (a) *Reading No. 1 (Coley Park)*. Confirmed. Operative date June 1st, 1959.
- (b) *Reading No. 2 (Broad Street/Friar Street)*. Confirmed. Operative date June 1st, 1960.
- (c) *Reading No. 3 (Coley Park Extension)*. Informally approved. Submitted to the Minister.
- (d) *Reading No. 4 (Burghfield Road)*. Informally approved. Submitted to the Minister.
- (e) *Reading No. 5 (Old Southcote Lodge)*. Informally approved. Submitted to the Minister.
- (f) *Reading No. 6 (Broad Street/Mill Lane)*. Informally approved.
- (g) *Reading No. 7 (Holybrook Crescent/Burghfield Road)*. Informally approved.

We have therefore two areas where Smoke Control Orders are operating, involving 810 properties and 121 acres. In the five areas declared and initially approved by the Minister, there are 710 properties and they are 240 acres in extent. Further extensions have been considered by the Health Committee and the work will proceed as circumstances permit.

The Reading No. 2 Smoke Control Area is the first one involving expenditure on the adaptation of fireplaces. Although the numbers involved were comparatively small, useful experience was obtained and one striking feature was the change that can take place in an area of this kind between the time of the initial survey and the date when the adaptations come to be carried out. Tenancies are constantly changing, unoccupied flats and offices become tenanted and methods of heating vary according to the ideas of different individuals and firms. It is appropriate to stress, therefore, that preliminary estimates of costs likely to be involved in adaptations, will be very approximate only. In this area, it was estimated that there would be 23 fireplaces requiring adaptation at a cost of £377. In the final stage, in fact, 14 fireplaces were altered at a cost of £176.

In the case of dwellings, 3/10ths of the cost is borne by the owner or occupier, 3/10ths by the Local Authority and 4/10ths by the Ministry. The Council's contribution in respect of adaptations in the Reading No. 2 Smoke Control Area, therefore, was £53. In the case of premises other than private dwellings, no grant was payable and, in fact, all necessary works were carried out before the Order came into operation. It is pleasing to report that in every case both householders and occupiers of commercial and industrial premises, showed the greatest possible co-operation.

## Education and Publicity

We have continued to give clean air publicity in various ways again this year—visits have been paid to house-holders, factories and other premises by the Public Health Inspectors. Photographic displays have also been staged in connection with the Welcome to Citizenship function in January, and the Reading County Fair in May. One or two small exhibitions have been arranged at such places as clinics. Much useful literature is now available too from the Coal Utilisation Council, the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation and the Gas and Electricity Boards, on the various ways in which the interests of clean air can be pursued. They are also most willing to stage demonstrations and, in some cases, provide mobile exhibitions.

The Coal Utilisation Council have shown a particular interest in the efficiency of firegrate installation. In various parts of the country they have organised courses for bricklayers, plumbers and others involved in this work. Their aim is to build up a nucleus of men specially trained in firegrate fixing, and the firms by whom they are



employed, are placed on the Council's approved panel. The employment of panel members should be a form of guarantee to house purchasers, householders and local authorities that firegrates are fixed in the approved manner.

Whilst courses have been arranged in the Southern region, it will be a little time yet before they are available in Reading.

### **Air Pollution Investigation**

We continued the operation of the eight lead peroxide candles which measure active S.O.<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, and the one volumetric pollution instrument sited in Bristol & West House which measures smoke concentration and the amount of active acidity in the air. The lead peroxide candles are assessed monthly and the volumetric instrument is read daily.

In addition to the department's instruments, two have been established by the Geography Department, Reading University, one at the "Dreadnought" and one at the University buildings. The results from all these instruments are furnished monthly to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and of course there is interchange of information between the Department and the University which is of mutual benefit. It would be appropriate at this point to say how grateful we are also to the Borough Surveyor and Sewage Works Manager who undertake to assess the lead peroxide candles.

The information obtained from the instruments is detailed in the following tables:

1960—MONTHLY ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD

STATION	Mg. of SO <sub>3</sub> /day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A PbO <sub>2</sub> (louvered cover)											
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1. Emmer Green Primary School	1.14	0.94	1.78	0.59	0.65	0.52	0.20	0.26	0.64	0.85	0.75	0.93
2. Caversham Sewage Works ...	1.27	1.07	1.66	0.63	0.61	0.54	0.23	0.24	0.52	0.81	0.95	1.05
3. Alfred Sutton Secondary Girls School ...	1.62	1.39	1.76	0.89	0.71	0.62	0.53	0.51	0.83	1.28	1.28	1.40
4. Geoffrey Field School ...	1.22	0.89	1.45	0.62	0.65	0.54	0.22	0.25	0.57	0.83	0.60	1.08
5. Water Dept. Depot, Berkeley Avenue ...	1.74	1.52	2.21	1.01	0.84	0.59	0.22	0.31	0.60	1.13	1.31	1.37
6. Tilehurst Reservoir, Park Lane, Tilehurst ...	0.98	0.80	1.47	0.40	0.91	0.36	0.12	0.17	0.42	0.65	0.31	0.59
7. Battle Hospital, Oxford Road	1.61	1.22	2.77	0.82	0.49	0.68	0.31	0.32	0.95	1.26	0.97	1.07
8. E.P. Collier School ...	1.85	1.62	2.75	0.92	0.91	0.77	0.44	0.43	1.04	1.47	1.46	1.59
10. Reading University, Dept of Geography ...	1.38	1.13	1.79	0.84	0.68	0.45	0.28	0.28	0.57	0.93	0.68	1.09
11. Reading University, Dreadnought	1.52	1.32	2.21	0.91	0.70	0.82	0.77	0.57	0.87	0.92	1.26	1.47



**DAILY ESTIMATION OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR  
DIOXIDE BY VOLUMETRIC APPARATUS**

**STATION 9. BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE**

MONTH	SMOKE Mgms./100 cu. metres		SULPHUR DIOXIDE Parts per 100 million	
	Maximum	Average	Maximum	Average
January ...	27	10	18.6	7.4
February ...	28	9.6	17.9	6.6
March ... ..	17	9	19.4	8.0
April ... ..	18	6.1	10.5	4.5
May ... ..	8	5	7.6	4.1
June ... ..	8	3	7.1	2.9
July ... ..	9	2.1	4.3	1.9
August ...	7	2.1	4.9	2.3
September ...	13	5.5	9.0	3.8
October ...	14	8.1	12.0	5.7
November ...	26	6.4	12.8	5.1
December ...	21	9.6	11.6	6.2

The lead peroxide instrument has been under investigation by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. It has been found that there are many variables which can affect results and local authorities have been recommended to examine the pattern of instruments distributed over the town so as to ensure that the best possible results are being obtained.

During the year, the Standing Conference of Collaborating Bodies set up a working party to report on a national survey of air pollution. The conditions in a hundred selected towns are to be investigated so as to give information on the problem in general, and it seems likely that in the towns where the national survey is to be carried out, existing instruments will be integrated in the survey arrangements. With the approval and co-operation of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Geography Department of Reading University have decided to undertake an investigation into the circumstances of pollution in Reading and the immediate district. The Health Committee have agreed that the department should collaborate in this work and interesting information should, in due course, be available.

#### 4 NUISANCES AND WORK UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Some 491 complaints were received by the Department from residents in the Borough concerning many matters. One thousand and fifty-three informal notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances which were not concerned with housing defects, the latter notices being referred to under the section on Housing. Attention to obstructed and affected sewers and drains is a matter of routine but some 259 complaints were dealt with during 1960. It was found necessary to clear 1,004 drains or sewers and in a number of cases, repairs also were necessary. There

were 169 cases where the owners of the properties involved effected the necessary work. The vast majority of drainage jobs are automatically carried out by the Corporation and the cost of the work is apportioned to individual owners according to the extent of use enjoyed by each property. In some cases it was necessary to call out workmen on Saturday afternoons or Sundays to deal with obstructed drains as a matter of urgency and it is appropriate once again that reference should be made to the excellent co-operation given by the staff of the Borough Surveyor's Department who dealt promptly and willingly with those cases, many of which arose at inopportune times. Two thousand four hundred and ninety visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year on matters concerning drainage.

The plant concerned with the discharge of galvanising fumes was kept under surveillance during the year, a number of visits being paid to the factory. The best practicable means are being used to minimise the discharge and there was little trouble during the year. Complaints were also received concerning the discharge of fumes from a paint pigment manufacturing establishment. There are two distinct processes involved here, one of which is registered under the Alkali Works Act and accordingly is the primary responsibility of the Alkali Works Inspector. Consultation took place with that official who carried out appropriate tests. His reports were satisfactory. So far as the non-registered process is concerned, improvements have been made to the ventilation and discharge system and it remains to be seen whether the steps taken are fully effective.

Another problem that has appeared to a greater extent this year, is cellulose paint spraying. This operation has been carried out in a number of unsatisfactory situations—backyards, small buildings intended for commercial use, and even in open yards adjoining dwellinghouses and factories. Whilst spraying has usually been carried out only for a short period, the fumes are very pungent and create considerable nuisance. Fortunately, informal action has been sufficient to terminate the operations. One or two cases were reported to the Planning Officer. Advice has also been given in more permanent establishments in connection with cellulose spraying. The real answer is the installation of proper spraying booths equipped with wet washing apparatus, and with suitable means of discharge and dispersal.

### **Disinfection and Disinfestation—Insanitary Premises**

One verminous person was treated during the year at the School Clinic. A total of 174 complaints relating to verminous premises were received during the year in connection with which, 228 visits and inspections were made. The number of cases of bed bugs was 58 compared with 83 last year. Fly and ant infestations were not so prevalent as in 1959. We continued to get trouble in the latter months of the year from the cluster fly—*Musca autumnalis*. Treatment was given to roof spaces where these insects gather for hibernation. Control of the cluster fly is rather difficult as they originate from agricultural land.

One interesting problem which arose during the year was the infestation of land immediately adjoining some of the Bath Road flats, with the Gooseberry Red Spider Mite—*Bryobia Praetiosa*. The insects were gaining access to some of the flats in fairly large numbers and a number of complaints were received from flat occupiers. These insects were found to be difficult to control by orthodox methods and insecticides, and advice was obtained from the Pest Infestation Laboratory at Slough. On our recommendation the Housing Manager arranged to have a 3 ft. wide strip of turf removed from around and immediately next to the flats, and after suitable treatment of the ground, the infestation ceased.

A number of insanitary premises were dealt with during the year. These mainly involved old people, but they are by no means restricted to the older age group. Some of the old people, by reason of age or infirmity, find it difficult to keep matters under control without outside help. Where appropriate, we were able to bring in assistance from the Welfare Officers or the Domestic Help Service and so make conditions more tolerable for these people.



## Common Lodging Houses

The Common Lodging House, London Street, continues to be fully used. A fair proportion of the inmates are workmen coming into the town from various parts of the country and Ireland for employment on building and heavy constructional operations. The conditions here do not improve and it is to be hoped that an answer will be found to this particular problem.

## Infectious Diseases

Seven inspections of premises were made during the year following notifications of infectious diseases. Defective conditions in houses were taken up with the owners and notices requiring repairs were served as necessary. In one or two cases where contacts were connected with the food industry, it was necessary to arrange with the employing firms that contacts should not handle food.

## Offensive Trades

The offensive trades established within the Borough comprise 1 blood drier, 1 tripe boiler and dresser, and 1 rag and bone dealer. The three premises were regularly inspected and general conditions associated with the business investigated. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

## Movable Dwellings

The Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, was placed on the Statute Book during the year. This was introduced as a better means of control over the establishment of sites for caravans. Whilst the number of caravans in Reading is small compared with other districts, because of its built-up nature, it is essential that the situation should be carefully controlled. The Town Planning & Buildings Committee decided to adopt the model conditions issued by the Ministry for all caravans in the town and decided generally that all new caravans for permanent residential use shall have a water carriage system of drainage and a water closet available. They also gave particular consideration to the question of overcrowding in caravans. A caravan of less than 16 ft. in length is not considered suitable for permanent occupation and the standard adopted for overcrowding interpreted into terms of persons to type of caravan, is as follows:—

Caravan 16 ft. to 22 ft.	=1 person
Caravan 22 ft. to 26 ft.	=2 persons
Caravan 26 ft. to 30 ft.	=3 persons
Caravan over 30 ft.	=4 persons

In the case of children between the ages of 1–10 years, 230 cubic feet is allowed as against 500 cubic feet per adult person. It was also decided that a caravan is not suitable for a permanent residence for more than 4 persons.

## Swimming Baths

There are three public swimming baths in Reading—Arthur Hill, King's Meadow and the Coley Baths, and all use mains water. The first two have continuous filtration and chlorination plants, while at Coley there is a chlorination injection system. Arthur Hill and King's Meadow have a partial change of water weekly, when filters are washed through, and at Coley the water is changed twice during the season. Both King's Meadow and Coley are used only during the Summer. Forty-four samples of water were obtained during the season from these sources and were examined at the Public Health Laboratory. In two samples concerned with different baths, the presence of presumptive coli was reported. Investigations indicated that the bacteriological conditions were probably due to temporary heavy loading; remedial action was



taken. Another public bathing place is the West Reading Bathing Station situated on the River Thames, on the western boundary of the town. This comprises a boomed-off section of the Thames: changing and sanitary accommodation is provided for bathers. Samples taken of the river water during the year showed probable coliform organisms present.

The number of swimming pools at schools in the town is increasing. The four main ones are at Reading School, Queen Anne Girls School, Leighton Park School and the Abbey Girls School. The first three have automatic filtration and chlorination dosage plant, whilst the Abbey School has automatic chlorination and partial filtration only. Samples taken from these pools during the year were satisfactory.

In addition, we have learner pools at the Hill Primary, Grove School and the No. 9 School.

Two more learner pools, one indoor at Ashmead and one outdoor at Southcote Primary, were completed during the year. Both these pools have automatic filtration and chlorination dosage plants. Samples taken from these two pools were satisfactory.

The control technique we have evolved after the detailed investigations undertaken in 1957, has been recommended in all these cases and its effectiveness is reflected, to some extent, in the bacteriological results of bath water samples which were all satisfactory.

Briefly, these recommendations for a 24 ft.  $\times$  12 ft. learner pool, were as follows:—

1. Thorough cleansing between emptying and refilling.
2. Bath dosed initially each day, sufficient to give at least 2 p.p.m. free chlorine.
3. Re-dose to at least 2 p.p.m. immediately prior to afternoon session, and again mid-way through afternoon.
4. Check chlorine and pH values at least once between chlorine dosages.
5. Arrange bath loading so as to give an even flow of bathers through the bath, giving approximately 20 per session—140 per day.
6. Instructions to be given to bathers as to personal behaviour. All children should visit the toilet before entering the bath.
7. Foot bath containing super-chlorinated water to be used by all bathers before entering the pool.
8. Routine bacteriological checks to be made during week.
9. It is advisable, where possible, to change the water completely and clean the bath mid-week, or, as an alternative, super-chlorinate and allow the bath to stand for a day without use.
10. Adequate records should be kept.

## Drinking Water

Sixty-one samples of water were obtained from private wells in the town used for drinking purposes or in connection with food trade purposes. Detailed investigations were necessary in respect of 9 samples and appropriate action was taken. Twelve samples of Mains water were obtained during the year and examined by the Public Health Laboratory. All proved satisfactory.

## 5 GENERAL

### Factories Acts, 1937–48

There are 646 factories recorded in the register kept for this purpose. Eight hundred and four visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors. These premises have been kept in a reasonably satisfactory manner during the year and requests by Inspectors have, in the main, been promptly dealt with; 5 complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. It was necessary to serve 25 written notices during the year. The list of outworkers received twice yearly from employers in accordance with Section 110 of the Act, returned 84 outworkers who were principally engaged in making wearing apparel. Of these, 14 were referred to other Local Authorities, 70 were in the Borough and the premises were visited by the Public Health Inspectors.



The work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in their inspection of factories is to ensure that the premises comply with the Factories Acts so far as the Local Authority's responsibilities extend, except in so far as means of escape in case of fire are concerned, which is done by the Fire Authority. Visits were also made to factories following complaints of nuisance which are dealt with under the Public Health Act.

All plans of proposed factory and other buildings submitted to the Borough Council for approval under the Planning and Building By-laws, are examined by this department from the point of view of the Factories Acts and Public Health Act, and as regards potential nuisance. Under the Clean Air Act information is also required on fuel burning appliances in the planning stage so that we can ensure that the provisions of the Clean Air Act will be complied with.

Canteens and kitchens, etc., which are now available in many factories, were also submitted to inspection by the District Public Health Inspectors. The standard of hygiene observed in these establishments, together with the structure of kitchens and amenities provided herewith, were matters also under supervision.

The tables below give details of inspections of factories and are the particulars contained in the annual report to the Ministry of Labour and National Service:—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power ...	101	79	3
Factories with mechanical power ...	545	625	22
	646	704	25

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	1
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
(a) Insufficient	3	2	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	19	25	—	3
	25	30	—	5

### Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are 5 premises on the register where filling materials listed in Section 32 of the Act are used in the manufacture of bedding and other upholstered articles. Sixteen inspections were made of these premises and 11 samples of filling materials submitted for examination, one of which proved unsatisfactory.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the one unsatisfactory sample. A plea of warranty was entered and the case against the local firm was dismissed.

### Canal Boats

Thirty-seven visits were made to the wharves of the Thames and Kennet and there was no activity to report.

### Places of Entertainment

Thirty-two visits were paid to the various places of public entertainments. There were no complaints by the public in respect of these establishments during the year.

It is hoped to give a little more attention to this aspect of public health work in the coming year.

### Shops Act

Visits were paid to all types of shops in the town as a routine duty. A number of inspections were also made on receipt of complaints from the Shops Act Inspector responsible for hours of closing, etc. It was not found necessary to issue any Certificates of Exemption in respect of sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

### Pet Animals Act, 1951

Eight licences were issued in 1960 under the above Act.

### Rodent Control. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

As in previous years, "Warfarin" has been used in favour of the "strong" poisons for the treatment of both rats and mice. It has been proved by experience to be the most effective rodenticide available, partly because it eliminates the necessity for pre-baiting, and partly because the rodents do not develop an antipathy towards the bait. The rodent operatives are nevertheless instructed to take particular care in protecting the baits, especially around pigsties, as Warfarin is known to be toxic to certain domestic animals.

During 1960, 2,694 visits were made to premises in connection with complaints received under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and 150 business premises and 526 private dwellings were found to be infested with either rats or mice. Whenever it has been advisable, proofing measures were recommended to the owners, and the necessary work has been carried out in each instance. Wherever practicable, surface infestations are dealt with on the block system, and altogether 7,625 visits were made and 6,021 premises surveyed. This includes treatment of the sewers and drains in the neighbourhood of the infestation and baiting at strategic points in order to eliminate all the residual breeding stock in the area. When it was suspected that a defective drain or sewer was the source of the infestation, the District Public Health Inspector has tested the drains, and 110 such inspections were made during 1960. In 13 instances (compared with 9 in 1959), drains or sewers were found to be defective, and after the necessary works were carried out, the infestation ceased.

The main sewers were again systematically treated twice during the year in order to reduce the rat population and the results are most encouraging. The details of the treatment are as follows:-

	<i>Manholes Tested</i>	<i>Manholes showed take</i>	<i>Visits</i>
1st Maintenance . .	234	32	596
2nd Maintenance . .	239	32	695

Warfarin was again used in the manholes with the addition of para-nitrophenol to keep the baits in good condition in the damp atmosphere of the sewers. Continued experience confirms that rats have a greater affinity for Warfarin than for arsenic or zinc phosphide. It was worth noting that the number of manholes where baits have been taken continues to be reduced, and although it would be a little optimistic to expect that the entire rat population of the sewers will be eradicated, it does indicate that the rats are being reduced to controllable numbers. It is already the case that most sections of the town have continued to show untouched baits in the sewers for some years.

Routine inspections are still carried out at the refuse tips, but it is pleasing to note that the sites used for controlled tipping have been sufficiently well-managed that they are virtually free from rodent infestation, and routine-visits have been reduced to a minimum.



The treatment of domestic premises for rat and mice destruction is carried out free of charge, but payment is required when work is carried out in business premises. During the financial year 1959/60, the income in respect of this work was £323, compared with £219 for the previous financial year.

Other Pests

In addition to the rodent control work carried out by this section, some 324 complaints were investigated concerning wasps, bees, hornets, badgers, etc. Of these, 292 complaints were in respect of wasps' nests. Although this number is considerably less than for the previous year when 484 complaints were received as a result of the very fine weather during the summer of 1959, nevertheless it represents an increase of some 70% above the usual number of wasps' nests dealt with in previous years. Payment is required in connection with this work and during the financial year 1959/60, the income was £188.

The town pigeons continued to be a source of complaint as the fouling of buildings and rainwater pipes is most objectionable.

RODENT CONTROL

Complaints Received	Private Dwellings	Business Premises including Food Stores and Kitchens	Corporation Property	Agricultural Property	Total
Complaints Received on Survey, etc.					
Complaints ... 680	552	153	37	7	749
Complaints on Survey, etc. 69					
Re Complaints	1,888	642	139	25	
Others ...	5,073	2,215	305	32	10,319
Premises found clear ...	30	6	—	—	36
Premises found infested ...	526	145	37	5	713
Number of Rats picked up ...	260	61	24	18	363
Estimated kill—Rats ...	576	206	54	41	877
Number of Mice picked up ...	316	105	18	3	442
Estimated Kill—Mice ...	475	222	48	12	757

SEWER MAINTENANCE

1st Maintenance:-	234 manholes tested	32 manholes showed take	—	596 visits
2nd	239	32	—	695

Mr. K. H. Thorpe, B.Sc. (Eng.), A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

### House Refuse Collection

During 1960, the collection of house refuse has continued on a once weekly basis. Additional collections have been given to special premises such as the local Hospitals, Multi-storey Flats, Cafés and Food Shops in the town centre. The service has been maintained by 15 refuse collection vehicles and 58 employees.

The following table shows the quantity of refuse collected, with the total mileage of vehicles engaged on the collection.

Quarter ending :				1960		1959	
				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	...	10,180	32,913	9,797	31,586
30th June	...	...	...	9,334	34,597	9,138	31,916
30th September	...	...	...	9,194	35,897	8,508	32,126
31st December	...	...	...	10,747	34,644	10,294	33,538
Totals				39,455	138,051	37,737	129,166

Trade Refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse and at such other times as arranged between the trader and the Corporation. Facilities are available for traders within the Borough to deliver trade refuse direct to the Refuse Disposal Tip by arrangement with the Corporation.

### Street Cleansing

The "Beat" system of street cleansing by Street Orderlies has been maintained and, with the assistance of 2 Mechanical Sweeper Collectors, has proved satisfactory. Collection of street refuse is carried out by means of street orderly trucks, which are visited by lorries, for the collection of accumulated refuse and conveying same to the disposal tip.

The following is a comparative table of the number of employees engaged on street cleansing:—

						1960	1959
Men	.	.	.	.	.	44	46
Boys	.	.	.	.	.	2	4

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the Borough and the mileage of the vehicles (the table includes figures for the two Mechanical Sweeper Collectors engaged on street cleansing work).

Quarter ending :				1960		1959	
				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	...	739	4,356	897	4,350
30th June	...	...	...	667	4,161	780	4,120
30th September	...	...	...	637	2,812	690	4,430
31st December	...	...	...	736	4,526	742	4,565
Totals				2,779	15,855	3,109	17,465



## Street Gulley Cleansing

The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1959–1960:—

Quarter ending :			1959		1960	
			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	357	2,251	340	1,643
30th June	...	...	338	2,310	332	1,192
30th September	...	...	296	2,133	341	1,453
31st December	...	...	414	3,111	410	1,511
Totals			1,405	9,805	1,423	5,799

## Cesspool Emptying

All domestic cesspools are emptied by mechanical cesspool emptying vehicles upon receipt of instructions from occupiers or owners of premises within the Borough, with a minimum of inconvenience and nuisance to householders.

## Sewage Disposal

During the year an average daily flow of over 6,000,000 gallons of sewage was pumped and purified.

Two new pumping stations were commissioned during the year, one at Cow Lane and the other at Bennet Road. No new plant was commissioned at Manor Farm during 1960 but large sections should be working during 1961. The new sedimentation tanks continued to produce a superior effluent and this enabled the final effluent quality to be maintained, although it was often rather below the required standards.

The wet summer and autumn curtailed sludge drying operations and large volumes had to be pumped into lagoons. Synthetic detergent concentration shows no further increase in the raw sewage, averaging 12.9 p.p. million, the final effluent containing 4.5 parts per million.

## Sewerage

During the 12 months ended December 31st, 1960, 340 private houses and bungalows and 97 flats (total 437 dwellings) were connected to the foul sewage system. In addition, several new Corporation houses and flats were connected—I believe the Borough Architect makes a separate return to you in respect of these.

Two properties were constructed with cesspool drainage and 6 houses previously drained to cesspools were connected to the main foul sewers. The total number of houses within the Borough with cesspools is now 487, a reduction of four during the year.

## Swimming and Slipper Baths

The swimming bath facilities proved very popular and attendances were well maintained. The two slipper bath installations were also well attended.

The number of persons using the facilities during the year ended December 31st, 1960 was:—

Arthur Hill Memorial Baths—Swimming Pool	137,703
Slipper Baths	9,552
King's Meadow Bath	41,055
Coley Bathing Place	18,600
West Reading Bathing Place	15,500
Jesse Terrace Slipper Baths	14,528

## HOUSING

(These comments should be read in conjunction with the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and with my comments under Part III of the National Assistance Act.)

Mr. C. H. A. Willett, L.R.I.B.A., M.R.S.H., Borough Architect, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

The outstanding event of the year 1960 was the taking over of the first block of multi-storey flats.

These are fifteen storeys in height and are, at the present time, the tallest blocks of dwellings in this part of the Country.

Three blocks have been built together with a double decked block of garages, the whole forming an impressive group of buildings which fit well into the very pleasant surroundings of Coley Park.

The Housing Committee invited the Public to view the first block before it was occupied; about 1,000 people came during a week-end, and it appears that much favourable comment was made on the general standard of the accommodation and the facilities provided.

The necessity for people in provincial towns like Reading to become used to flats, becomes more acute as the building land daily becomes less within the Borough thus forcing the local Authority to seek a solution to this difficult problem by building upwards, since it is becoming impossible to find land for houses in town, and extortionate prices have to be paid for suitable land outside the Borough which must of course be reflected in rent costs.

Reading is a very important regional town with several large industries and offering facilities for commerce in many directions, and therefore attracting people to it, not only is the town itself full to overflowing but several large firms are developing estates on the outskirts, and these dwellings too are snapped up as soon as possible by eager purchasers, thus it is not difficult to understand that the Reading Housing Committee are still facing a big problem of re-housing even though they have now built more than 5,000 dwellings since 1946—and are continuing to press on as fast as circumstances permit.

The very serious shortage of bricks, in particular, and of building labour in general, is hampering their efforts, so too is the weather which has been bad for the Building and Civil engineering industries for many months past—but in spite of that there were 374 new dwellings produced in 1960, that is at the rate of a little over one complete dwelling every day of the year.

In addition to the number of tenants admitted to brand new dwellings there is also a large turnover in re-lets, more than 200 were disposed of last year, apart from exchanges which the Housing Committee are always willing to consider in approved circumstances.

A fine block of flats in Basingstoke Road was taken over recently, this should be a popular spot to live in because of its convenience, being directly on a main bus route and close to shopping facilities, as well as being not far from several industrial undertakings.

Although the site was originally an eyesore, being more like a large pit, the Housing Committee boldly tackled the problem with the result that the whole area has been improved by this good scheme, which is really the beginning of many others of a similar kind now being planned for the Borough, though this kind of scheme is limited to odd sites wherever they can be found, in ever diminishing numbers.

The variety of accommodation now owned and controlled by the Corporation is very wide, ranging all the way from bed-sitting rooms up to six-bedroom houses—everything from a bungalow up to multi-storey flats.



# NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

## Part III & IV

### SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

#### (a) General Considerations

In my report for 1959 I commented on the increasing load which is being placed on the services of local authorities; this trend continued throughout 1960. We have noticed, however, that the average age of people who apply to us for admission to Part III accommodation is rather higher than a few years ago. No complete explanation can be found for this, but I feel that, in part, this must be due to the increasing amount of special accommodation for old people which is being provided by the Housing Committee and, in part due to the way in which the Home Help Service can enable people to carry on in their own homes. One result of the existence of this higher age group is, of course, the fact that when we do have to admit them to Part III accommodation they are very feeble and require much more in the way of attention. In turn, this means a greater demand for staff.

We have also noticed that a demand for accommodation for married couples is becoming evident. At the moment this demand is small but I am sure it will grow as people are enabled to live longer in their own homes. Members will recall that in the new home which is planned on the Southcote Estate we have made provision for accommodation for five married couples. It will be interesting to study our experience of this provision; my present opinion is that subsequent homes will have to contain a higher percentage of accommodation for married couples.

Another result of the increasing frailty of the residents in our homes is their inability to manage stairs, even one or two steps. A lift is being installed in Southern Hill and we hope to install another lift at Parkhurst in 1961/62.

Members will also know that for the same reason we are building an extension to the Arthur Clark Home where, in fact, the majority of the living accommodation will be in the new building where rooms are all on the same level and a lift is provided. But I feel that I must also strike a note of warning about the future of some of our homes. Dysons Wood is in an isolated position and although it has served, and is serving a very useful purpose it has become increasingly difficult to staff and I think the time may not be too far distant when we shall have to seriously consider closing down this home. Rather similar considerations apply to Wychcotes and Warren House. These homes have got practically no ground floor accommodation; they are badly situated and, therefore, fail to attract staff and, here again, I think we shall have to consider whether or not we build a sizeable extension to Warren House and close Wychcotes, or whether we close both homes.

In order to attract staff the Council has provided staff houses although these were not handed over until April, 1961. It remains to be seen whether the rents to be charged for these houses will be within the means of the people for whom they are intended.

#### (b) Part III Accommodation

Staff shortages at the hostels has made many difficulties and we have difficulty in recruiting persons who will undertake this type of work. The position is not helped by the shorter standard working week. Superintendents are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have carried on in the face of great difficulties. Unfortunately, Reading is a place of very full employment and a post which is relatively poorly paid and involves working six days per week (including Sundays and Bank Holidays) offers very little attractions.

The following table gives particulars of admissions during 1960. There has been a decrease in the number of admissions from the previous year and, in point of fact, only

38 of the total of 74 admissions came to us from their own homes the others being transferred on an exchange basis from hospital. This really does not help the overall situation. With 50 men and 116 women on our waiting list on the December 31st, 1960, it is obvious that only cases of a very urgent nature can be handled. There has been less than one admission per week from persons coming from their own homes.

Hostel	Transfers from other Homes		Source of Admissions							
			Hospital		Own Home		For Short stay		Total new admissions (permanent)	
	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.
Woodlands	—	1	1	6	2	4	—	—	3	11
Wychcotes	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	2	—	4
Warren House	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	5
Parkhurst	1	—	2	—	9	—	3	—	12	—
Southern Hill	—	—	7	—	6	—	—	—	13	—
Arthur Clark	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	6
Dysons Wood	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	6
Alice Jenkins	—	—	—	6	—	8	—	1	—	14
	1	1	10	24	17	21	3	3	28	46
	2		34		38		6		74	

The Central Entertainments Committee still maintain their activities, and during a most successful year the sum of £277 8s. 1d. was raised by their efforts in organising garden fetes, whist drives, etc. Of this amount, £212 7s. 8d. was used for the benefit of the residents.

Once again in 1960, the Mayor and Mayoress made a tour of all the Homes during Christmas, and our residents much appreciated the visit.



## RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION—December 31st, 1960

			Persons (exclusive of staff) residing in					Total
			Homes in the possession of the Council whose normal bed complement for residential accommodation is:—			Premises vested in the Minister as hospitals	Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council by voluntary organisations	
			Less than 35	35-70	over 70			
Not materially Handicapped			1	2	3	4	5	6
	aged	M. F.	46	91 53			5	91 104
	not aged	M. F.						
Blind	aged	M. F.		8 7			2	8 9
	not aged	M. F.		1			1	2
	aged	M. F.		2			1	3 1
Deaf	aged	M. F.	1					
	not aged	M. F.						
	aged	M. F.		1 1			1	1 4
Epileptic	aged	M. F.	2	1 1			1	2 1
	not aged	M. F.		1			1 1	
	aged	M. F.	20	10 21			1	10 42
Others physically Handicapped	aged	M. F.		1			1 2	2 2
	not aged	M. F.						
	aged	M. F.	5	8				13
Mentally Handicapped	aged	M. F.						
	not aged	M. F.						
	Grand Total			74	205			16
Persons accommodated on behalf of other local authorities (included in Table A above)						Aged	Other	
						2	-	
Persons accommodated as residents by other local authorities on behalf of the Council (not included above)						6	-	

**Temporary Accommodation** (This section should be read in conjunction with the report of the Family Welfare Officer).

In 1960 there has been a considerable increase in the number of people accommodated in temporary accommodation. It will be seen that the number of occupant days is nearly three times as great as in 1959. Many of these have been families, and their stay has been, in most instances, an extremely long one. It has been practically impossible to find alternative accommodation for these people, especially where there are children. This type of case would appear to be increasing, and our accommodation at Woodlands has been practically full during the year, casual admissions being accommodated in the porch. Many of these people are from outside this area, having removed here in the hope of obtaining work and accommodation, but on finding their attempts unsuccessful are applying to the Family Caseworkers for aid. In the past there have been periods when the position has been acute, but this has usually been for isolated periods of the year. Difficulties are experienced in placing each new case which is reported to us. In my opinion the time has come when an extension of the accommodation should be considered.

The following table gives particulars of this accommodation:—

	M.	W.	C.	Total
Admissions . . . . .	—	42	44	86
Maintenance Days . . . . .	—	582	1172	1754
Remaining on Dec. 31st, 1960	—	1	2	3

## SECTION 22—CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION

The standard charge was increased from £6 5s. 3d. to £6 12s. 0d. per head per week as from May 7th, 1960. The following amounts were collected on assessments made against residents according to the scale in use during the year:—

	£	s.	d.
Woodlands . . . . .	7,118	7	0
Wychcotes . . . . .	1,383	9	10
Warren House . . . . .	2,125	6	10
Parkhurst . . . . .	5,504	15	4
Southern Hill . . . . .	5,343	4	2
Arthur Clark Home . . . . .	1,934	2	5
Dysons Wood . . . . .	2,148	19	8
Alice Jenkins . . . . .	4,767	18	0

In April, 1960, as recommended by the O. & M. Unit, a new system of collection and accounting was put into operation, and, after small initial queries were settled, it has been found that an easier method of working has resulted.

## SECTION 24—AUTHORITY LIABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

In all cases where a dispute has arisen a settlement has been reached between the Authorities concerned. No case under this Section, therefore, has been referred to the Minister for a decision.

## SECTION 25—POWER OF NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO ORDER THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN URGENT CASES

Once again the excellent co-operation between the officers of the Board and of this Department has been maintained. Cases have been referred by us to the Board and vice versa, and on each occasion solutions have been found to the problems presented.

## SECTION 26—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN PREMISES MAINTAINED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The following table shows the numbers and categories of persons who were in special Homes and chargeable to the County Borough:—

	M.	F.
Aged Infirm . . . . .	2	6
Blind . . . . .	2	5
Cripples . . . . .	1	4
Deaf and Dumb . . . . .	1	—
Epileptic . . . . .	1	2
Spastic . . . . .	1	—



## SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

### (a) Deaf and Dumb

Arrangements with the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf continued to operate satisfactorily throughout the year. The following table gives particulars of people on the Register at the end of the year:—

	M.	F.
Children under 16 . . . . .	—	—
Persons aged 16–24 . . . . .	35	36
Persons aged 65 and over . . . . .	5	6

Mr. Powell, the Missioner for the Deaf, has given me the following notes on his work:—

### Church

Services have been held each Sunday at 6.30 p.m. excepting on the first Sunday in the month when there is a Service of Holy Communion at 4.15 p.m. The attendances at these services is extremely good.

The Third Anniversary Service of the opening of our Chapel was held on September 18th, 1960.

The Harvest Festival Service was held on September 25th, 1960.

There has been one Baptism in the Chapel.

### Mother's Union Branch

The meetings of the branch continue to be held fortnightly. On May 24th our members took part in the Reading M.U. Deanery Festival Service at St. Mary's Church. The members were also invited to St. Michael's Church for a service and garden party.

The Annual Outing was to Bognor.

Many of the meetings are devoted to making articles for the yearly bazaar.

### Placement

Suitable jobs were found for 2 females and 8 males. Owing the numerous difficulties that rise due to their disability, the deaf are visited regularly in their places of employment to iron out troubles.

### Social

The Annual Party was held on Saturday, February 20th, 1960 at the Reading Town Hall. The Mayor and Mayoress honoured us with their presence. There were 70 persons present. This figure included "hearing" and deaf visitors.

Two teams entered the Reading Borough Tuesday Billiard League and one team took part in the Reading and District Table Tennis League.

The Annual Outing took the form of a tour of the Isle of Wight on Saturday, July 16th, 1960.

We received visitors from Clapham, Plymouth, Oxford, Watford, Northampton, and Coventry Deaf Clubs and return visits were made by our members.

Twelve of our aged members went for one week's holiday to the Isle of Wight, from June 4th to June 11th.

### Welfare

Interpretation is constantly provided in doctors' surgeries, hospital interviews, dentists, solicitors' offices and in Courts of Law.

The deaf have been visited in their homes, in hospital and other places.

**(b) Hard of Hearing**

Our arrangements with the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association has continued as in previous years. The register on December 31st, 1960, was as follows:—

	M.	F.
Children under 16 . . . . .	—	—
Persons aged 16–24 . . . . .	21	28
Persons aged 65 and over . . . . .	10	40

Mr. W. J. Hammond, Hon. Secretary of the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association, writes that the Association meets every Monday evening and also enjoys a number of other social events, such as outings, visits to the theatre, and meetings with other clubs.

**(c) Blind**

The general arrangements for this work continued as previously and in close collaboration with the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind.

Miss Lowe, the Blind Welfare Officer, also acts as Secretary for the Association and has supplied the following information:—

	Male	Female	Total
1–4 years . . . . .	1	—	1
5–15 „ . . . . .	—	1	1
16–20 „ . . . . .	1	1	2
21–29 „ . . . . .	3	2	5
30–39 „ . . . . .	5	4	9
40–49 „ . . . . .	8	4	12
50–59 „ . . . . .	10	14	24
60–69 „ . . . . .	14	30	44
70–79 „ . . . . .	22	36	58
80 years and over . . . . .	23	46	69
	87	138	225

*Age at which Blindness occurred*

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year . . . . .	11	13	24
1–4 years . . . . .	—	3	3
5–15 „ . . . . .	3	2	5
16–20 „ . . . . .	3	2	5
21–29 „ . . . . .	5	3	8
30–39 „ . . . . .	6	10	16
40–49 „ . . . . .	9	10	19
50–59 „ . . . . .	7	25	32
60–69 „ . . . . .	16	23	39
70–79 „ . . . . .	18	29	47
80 years and over . . . . .	9	18	27
Total . . . . .	87	138	225

During the year there were thirty-one new registrations, six transfers-in, twenty deaths, seven transfers-out to other areas, resulting in an increase of ten on the total for 1959.



Of the thirty-one persons registered blind during the year twenty-six were over sixty years of age, two were men of fifty plus, two young women of twenty-plus and an infant.

### Partially-sighted Register

There are 121 persons on this register at the end of the year, 40 males and 81 females.

The age groups are as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
1–5 years . . . . .	1	—	1
5–15 „ . . . . .	5	5	10
16–20 „ . . . . .	3	—	3
21–49 „ . . . . .	3	11	14
50–64 „ . . . . .	5	4	9
65 years and over . . . . .	23	61	84
Total . . . . .	40	81	121

During the year there were twenty-one additions to the register, twelve deaths, two transfers-out and eight names were removed from the register on being registered as blind persons, resulting in a total decrease of one.

The register is divided into the following groups for those aged 16 and over:—

Persons near and prospectively blind . . . . .	14
Persons mainly industrially handicapped . . . . .	13
Persons requiring observation only . . . . .	83

#### A. Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially sighted Persons:—

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(1) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F (1) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :— ...				
(a) No treatment ... ..	5	1	—	18
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical) ...	8	3	—	17
(2) Number of cases at (1) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment ... ..	1	3	—	15

### Children

One blind boy reached his sixteenth birthday and left Condoover Hall School. He is to be given the opportunity of doing occupational handicrafts in the hope that he will later on be able to train for sheltered employment.

The girl is still at the Sunshine Home, Leamington Spa and the third is a baby boy, a year old.

Of the eleven partially-sighted children, nine are attending special schools, one attends a local day-nursery and the other has an additional handicap which has delayed his education so far.

The children enjoyed the annual Christmas Party arranged for them by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind which also provided an opportunity for parents of children not yet at special schools to meet those who are happily settled at boarding school.

## Home Workers

The machine-knitter and piano tuner have remained our only homeworkers for another year and both have maintained the earnings required to qualify for augmentation.

## Rehabilitation and Training

One man completed the rehabilitation course at Torquay and is now happily employed doing caretaking and some general maintenance work at a local school.

The partially-sighted woman trained as a dictaphone typist has been employed for several months and likes her work, as well as the five-day week.

## Employed Persons

Twenty-eight blind and partially-sighted persons are employed as shorthand-typists, telephone operators, factory operatives, piano tuners, masseurs, domestic workers, etc. Three men and one woman are unemployed and every effort is being made to place them in open industry. One is waiting to be admitted for training at Letchworth.

## Walford House

This house, providing three bed-sitting rooms furnished by the Association has had one room vacant for a few months but is now fully occupied again. The tenants are very happy there and appreciate the facilities provided.

## Shop Sales

The amount raised from shop sales totals £220, a decrease of £35 on the previous year. Very few of our registered blind people are able to make articles of a saleable standard and those who are good at knitting are frequently kept busy making garments for young folk in their respective families. In view of increasing competition from other sections of disabled persons it is helpful to have work disposed of privately though this is not reflected in the amount for shop sales.

## Holiday Fund

One hundred people saved up for their holidays and many qualified for the bonus of £3 6s. 8d. given by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind to those who had saved £6 13s. 4d. for withdrawal when they went away. The Voluntary Association also gave additional grants to help with the increased cost of holidays and altogether spent a total of £580 augmenting the £100 allowed by the Council. The holiday organised for them at Worthing proved very popular and has become an annual institution.

## Relief

The Committee consider many specific needs of individual blind persons at their monthly meetings and where possible their wants are supplied. The coal given by the Voluntary Association at the beginning of the winter is very much appreciated. Those over 70 years of age receive 10 cwt. each with lesser amounts for those who are younger.

The charges for chiropody treatment are paid for all who require this service and many of the blind people are grateful to have a chiropodist to visit them at home.

## Social Activities

The social calendar goes on all the year round. There are the monthly socials organised by the blind people with the help of the home teachers. These afternoon meetings have been very well attended and popular programmes provided by various local concert parties have been much appreciated. The hyacinth competition held at



the February meeting created a good deal of interest. A blind man presented a silver cup to be competed for each year. The blooms were judged by the Horticultural Officer who also gave a talk and invited questions on the care of the plants.

Pastime classes and games afternoon continue each week.

After the organised holiday in May there were summer outings to Bournemouth and Wallingford in June, followed by the annual Garden Party in the grounds of Parkhurst hostel.

During July the Social Club organised an outing to Southsea.

The Christmas Party was held in Reading Co-operative Society's Rainbow Hall and was attended by approximately 160 blind people and guides. His Worship the Mayor and Mayoress joined the Party and the Mayor spoke a few words of Seasonal greetings.

We are indebted to a number of people, societies and firms who render service in many and varied ways, all of which help to make life easier and brighter for the blind folk of this town.

(d) REPORT OF CONSULTING OPHTHALMIC SURGEON

Mr. G. T. Willoughby-Cashell, F.R.C.S., has given the following report in connection with his work during the year:-

During 1960, 54 patients were examined for admission to the Blind Register. Of these five had been previously examined.

	Blind	Not Blind	Partially Sighted	Total
Cataract ... ..	5	1	3	9
Glaucoma ... ..	2	—	2	4
Myopia ... ..	4	—	—	4
Retinal conditions ... ..	4	1	7	12
Congenital conditions ... ..	3	2	2	7
Infective conditions ... ..	1	—	1	2
Degenerative conditions ... ..	10	—	4	14
Cerebral conditions ... ..	2	—	—	2
	31	4	19	54

Ages					
Under 20	20-40	40-60	60-70	70-80	80-100
1	3	2	6	12	7

Cataract

In three of the patients blind from cataract operation was advised. In the other two patients the chest condition of one precluded operation and operation in the other was advised subject to improvement in the mental condition. Of the Partially-sighted patients two had macula degeneration in addition, one of them having had a successful lens extraction. The third patient had had a successful cataract extraction followed by vitreous haemorrhage and rise of tension.

Glaucoma

One of the two blind patients in this category retained fair central vision, the tension having been controlled by operation, but had very constricted visual fields.

The other blind patient had not had his eyes examined for nine years and had glaucoma in one eye with no perception of light and a central retinal vein thrombosis in the other, with perception of light only. One of the partially sighted patients had had both eyes operated on and the other patient was controlled with medical treatment.

### **Myopia**

Of this group one of the patients had cataract as well as myopia, one had had a successful operation for detached retina and another had had corneal ulceration as a child.

### **Retinal Conditions**

The retinopathies in the four blind patients were caused in two cases by diabetes and in one by a heart condition. The fourth patient had had bilateral retinal detachments; one eye successfully operated on later developed glaucoma with vascular occlusion. Four of the partially-sighted patients had diabetic retinopathy, one a serous and one a hypertensive retinopathy. The remaining patient had a central retinal vein thrombosis. The patient who was not blind had a vision of counting fingers in one eye due to thrombosis of branches of the central retinal artery and good vision in the other eye.

### **Congenital Conditions**

Of the three blind patients congenital cataract was present in one, pigmentary degeneration of the retina in another and subluxation of the lens associated with arachnodactyly in the third. One of the partially-sighted patients had congenital cataract and one optic atrophy, the latter being a premature baby.

### **Infective Conditions**

The patient blind in this group had iridocyclitis with iris bombe and a secondary cataract. The partially-sighted patient was a case of interstitial keratitis in which a corneal graft was advised.

### **Degenerative Conditions**

Macula degeneration accounted for nine of the ten blind patients, one being of the disciform variety. The tenth patient suffered from kerato conjunctivitis sicca and corneal ulceration. Three of the four partially-sighted patients had macula degeneration, one having glaucoma as well. The fourth had astroid bodies in one eye and macula oedema in the other.

### **Cerebral Conditions**

One of these patients had good central vision but very small visual fields due to hemianopia resulting from posterior cerebral artery occlusion. The other only saw hand movements following cerebral thrombosis.

The salient feature of this report is the large number of patients examined whose ages fall into the 80-100 group. This is associated with the fact that senile macula degeneration accounts for the largest category of blind patients.



**(e) OTHER CLASSES OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS**

Mrs. Snow, the Welfare Officer for this particular section of the department has submitted the following report:—

Total number assisted during the year	.	.	.	365
		Male	Female	
Children under 16 years	.	10	1	
Persons aged 16–64 years	.	99	126	
Persons aged 65 and over	.	54	75	
		163	202	
	Total	365		

Deceased during 1960—47

<i>Details of type of Assistance provided</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>
Appliances (aids, gadgets, special equipment)	64
Adaptations to Dwellings	14
Adaptations (outdoor)	11
Housing (including investigation for accommodation and rehousing)	18
Transport	93
Referred to Occupational Therapy Centre	60
Referred for Domiciliary Occupational Therapy	24
Welfare visits (not included in other figures)	146
Referred to other agencies (Ministry of Labour, National Assistance Board, Ministry of Health, British Red Cross Society)	74
Picture Loan Scheme	8
Convalescence	11
Financial Help (Fares etc.)	20
Social Activities (Film Show, Social Clubs)	84

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH***Classification of Disabilities on Register*

A/E (Amputation)	19
F (Arthritis and Rheumatism)	87
G (Congenital Malformations and Deformities)	7
H/L (Disease of the Digestive and Genito-Urinary systems; of the heart or circulatory system: of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and of the skin)	77
Q/T (Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs and of the spine)	65
V (Organic nervous disease—Epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc.)	139
U/W (Neuroses—Psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders not included in V)	3
X (Tuberculosis—respiratory)	3
Y (Tuberculosis—non-respiratory)	Nil
Z (Diseases and injuries not specified above)	6

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH GROUPING

	<i>Total of cases assisted</i>
A=Capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions	19
B=Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops . . . . .	25
C=Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops but capable of work at home . . . . .	20
D=Incapable of or not available for work . . . . .	290
E=Children under the age of 16 years whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority have a general responsibility under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 . . . . .	11
	<hr/> 365 <hr/>

During 1960 the Council, under its Scheme for Handicapped Persons assisted 365 persons. Details of their disabilities, age and work capacity are listed in the previous tables.

The general purpose of this Scheme is to promote the welfare of handicapped persons by making such provision as has been found necessary:—

- (i) to overcome the effects of their disabilities.
- (ii) to give advice and guidance on any services available to them.
- (iii) to encourage handicapped persons to take part in social activities or provide these services.
- (iv) to provide practical assistance in their homes and surrounding environment, i.e. adaptations of the home and the provision of additional facilities.
- (v) to assist handicapped persons who are capable and desirous of engaging in any handicraft or other skilled activity either in their homes or at a centre.
- (vi) to facilitate the taking of holidays by handicapped persons..
- (vii) to provide facilities to handicapped persons in travelling to participate in any of the aforementioned services.

I propose to consider first the new development and later those services which have shown by their steady increase in demand, that they meet many of the real problems of the disabled members of any community.

Last year a local firm showed interest in our efforts to find employment for handicapped persons by giving us outwork on a contract basis. It was felt there might be other firms to whom approaches could be made for similar work. An appointment of a Home Work Organiser was made in October. Mrs. Biddle had previously had experience in many countries overseas in obtaining work which could be done under supervision by groups of disabled persons. Almost immediately the response to her inquiries was most encouraging. Many firms with seasonal orders found it a real advantage to “farm out” these contracts rather than rearrange the normal flow of their production line. By the end of the year, thirteen persons were regularly engaged on industrial work which brought them in a small regular payment. It was possible with this increase in work to increase the number of sessions at the Occupational Therapy Centre. This is now open two full days and two half days and it is envisaged that this will again increase to include five full days.

Craft work has also increased. It is never anticipated that all the handicapped people will be fit or capable of undertaking industrial work only. Provision must still be made for those who, despite the considerable increase in our special transport



services, must be given Domiciliary Occupational Therapy. These people are visited regularly by our Occupational Therapist and given craft work at home which is subsequently sold at the Helping Hand Shop.

The transport needs have doubled. More than twice the number of handicapped persons are brought from their homes to work each day. Already we have outgrown the one special ambulance which is in daily use for the most severely disabled and chair bound. During the year a single decker adapted bus was in use to bring to the Centre the less disabled people. A further vehicle is needed.

Transport is not only needed to bring handicapped persons to work but also to allow them to participate in various social activities which are now a regular part of their life.

The second new development should be mentioned here. Our thanks are due to the ladies of the "Inner Wheel" who now run a Social Club for handicapped people every month. Not only do they help in the running of the Club, but are also responsible for the provision of additional transport. This means that there are now two Social Clubs held every month for handicapped persons. The first one started by the British Red Cross Society several years ago continues to provide pleasant entertainment and social contact for some fifty people.

In the field of social activities we always remember with thanks our very good friend Mr. Wyeth, Manger of the Odeon Cinema, who continues to organise regular film shows for handicapped persons.

The extent to which I have been able to increase our social activities is largely due to the continued practical help and encouragement which I receive from many voluntary associations in the town. Many of our transport needs are regularly provided each month by The Rotary Club.

The other available services show a steady demand. All our efforts must be canalised towards assisting the handicapped person to be as independent as possible, to reduce the restricting effects of their disability by providing employment and social activities.

Considerable practical help is provided by the staff of our Housing Repairs Department who undertake adaptations in the homes of the handicapped persons who occupy Council property. This work can enable a chair bound paraplegic to attend to all his domestic needs without seeking outside assistance. Further similar help is provided by the loan of special equipment and gadgets, particularly for use in the kitchen or bathroom.

I am particularly pleased to report that plans will shortly be drawn up for the design of a few specially built and equipped flats for families with one or more severely disabled member. In this way many of the expensive adaptations necessary to remove existing material difficulties will be removed.

Every effort is made to see that our handicapped persons are put in touch with each existing and new social service. Constant referral is made to local representatives of Statutory and Voluntary Services. I am very grateful for the helpful co-operation which I have continued to receive from these Officers.

Our Picture Loan Scheme is still faithfully organised by two voluntary workers, Miss Power Steel and Mrs. A. Jewell, who succeeded Mrs. Andrews and who also show the same kindness and interest in the homebound people on whom they regularly call.

Provision of a convalescent holiday for handicapped persons not only helps the patient but provides the family with a rest and change after many months of exhausting care. Special homes have to be found to cater for the excessive nursing care which is needed in most cases.

In October, this Authority was asked to co-operate in the National "Help the Disabled" week. During that time special exhibitions were set up to show what was being done for handicapped persons. More particularly what the handicapped person was doing to help himself.

The Work Centre was open daily and it was hoped that as a result of these many activities, the general public as well as those engaged in working with handicapped persons, would have an informed idea of the services operated in this area.





**(b) Chiropody Service**

During the year the newly constituted Queen Victoria Institute took over the chiropody service for old people who are not homebound. The Council has undertaken to provide a chiropody service for homebound old people although this service did not get going until 1961.

**SECTION 37—REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE**

At the end of the year, ten Homes were registered in Reading as providing accommodation suitable for caring for aged and infirm people. These are as follows:—

107 Connaught Road	.	.	.	.	.	4 places
8 Southcote Road	.	.	.	.	.	18 places
106 Wokingham Road	.	.	.	.	.	6 places
51 Tilehurst Road	.	.	.	.	.	23 places
Springfield St. Luke	.	.	.	.	.	28 places
272 Wokingham Road	.	.	.	.	.	6 places
4 College Road	.	.	.	.	.	14 places
31 Alexandra Road	.	.	.	.	.	6 places
62 Kidmore Road	.	.	.	.	.	3 places
19 Bath Road	.	.	.	.	.	20 places

**SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION**

Under this Section of the Act, two cases have been dealt with during 1960, both applications to the Court being successful. The persons concerned were removed to general hospitals, where their condition improved, resulting in their being able to take their discharge.

Two other cases were considered for action to be taken, but the persons concerned responded to continued visits from the Welfare Officers, the conditions improved and it was not considered necessary to take action under Section 47.

**SECTION 50—BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD**

One burial (a newly-born child) and two cremations (male) were arranged during 1960. In addition to these for which this Authority was responsible other cases have been handled by the Department, but in these instances expenses have been borne by the relatives concerned.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS****Cremation**

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Reading Crematorium. The following table gives an idea of the steady increase in the number of cremations over the last fifteen years:—

1960	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,537
1959	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,485
1958	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,382
1957	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,270
1956	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,210
1955	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	992
1954	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	869
1953	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	891
1952	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	675
1951	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	763
1950	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	576
1949	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	524
1948	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	444
1947	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	407
1946	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	344

Six hundred and seventy (43.6%) of those cremated were borough residents and 867 (56.4%) came from outside the borough, 50.3% of the residents of the borough who died were cremated.

### Public Health Laboratory Service

The valuable work of the Public Health Laboratory Service continued throughout the year and I am very grateful to Dr. Wood, Director of the Reading Laboratory, for his help and co-operation on many occasions. Unfortunately it is not possible to present particulars of examinations which applied only to Reading.

### Nursing Homes

At the end of the year four nursing homes were registered, providing accommodation for 13 maternity patients and 48 others. All Homes were inspected during the year. The particulars are as follows:-

Dunedin	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20 beds
Easterbrook	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14 „
Whiteknights	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14 „
Chiltern Maternity	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13 „

### Nursery and Child Minders Act, 1948

At the end of the year there were two child minders, including one day nursery registered in the town in respect of a total of 41 children.

### International Certificates

During the year 696 International Certificates of Vaccination were authenticated.